

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Audit and governance committee</b>
<b>Meeting date:</b>	<b>Friday, 25 September 2020</b>
<b>Title of report:</b>	<b>Progress report on 2020/21 internal audit plan Proposed Revised Internal Audit Plan 2020/21</b>
<b>Report by:</b>	<b>Chief finance officer / Head of internal audit</b>

## **Classification**

Open

## **Decision type**

This is not an executive decision

## **Wards affected**

(All Wards);

## **Purpose and summary**

To update members on the progress of internal audit work and to bring to their attention any key internal control issues arising from work recently completed. To enable the committee to monitor performance of the internal audit team against the approved plan.

To assure the committee that action is being taken on risk related issues identified by internal audit. This is monitored by acceptance by management of audit recommendations and progress updates in implementing the agreed action plans. In addition, audit recommendations not accepted by management are reviewed and progress to an appropriate recommendation to cabinet if it is considered that the course of action proposed by management presents a risk in terms of the effectiveness of or compliance with the council's control environment.

### Proposed revised Internal Audit Plan 2020/21

To be assured that the level and range of activity within the proposed revised annual internal audit plan is sufficient to provide assurance over the council's corporate governance arrangements and provides appropriate coverage of key business activities, associated risks and risk management processes.

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Further information on the subject of this report is available from

Jacqui Gooding, email: [Jacqui.Gooding@swapaudit.co.uk](mailto:Jacqui.Gooding@swapaudit.co.uk)

## **Recommendation(s)**

**That:**

- (a) performance against the approved plan be reviewed and any areas for improvement identified; and**
- (b) consider the assurances provided and the recommendations which the report makes, commenting on its content as necessary; and**
- (c) the proposed revised internal audit plan 2020/21 be reviewed and the committee determine any recommendations it wishes to make regarding the level and range of activity proposed in order that the work carried out may give a satisfactory level of assurance over the council's corporate governance arrangements**

## **Alternative options**

- 1 There are no alternative recommendations; it is a function of the committee to consider these matters in fulfilling its assurance role.

## **Key considerations**

- 2. The internal audit progress report is attached at appendix A. In the period covered by the report, one priority 2 recommendation has been made for the 2020-21 audit plan.
- 3. The progress report provides a proposed revised annual internal audit plan (appendix D in the report). The internal audit plan for 2020/21 was approved by the Audit and Governance Committee on the 5th May 2020. Clearly a lot has changed since that date, and as such, an updated and proposed revised annual audit plan for the remainder of 2020/21 has been prepared following consultation with the Chief Finance Officer. The proposed revised annual internal audit plan (appendix D in the report) sets out the work required for internal audit to give an opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the council's risk management, governance and internal control arrangements.

## **Community impact**

- 4. The council's code of corporate governance commits the council to managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management and to implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit to deliver effective accountability. By ensuring robust management responses to identified risks, the council will be better able to meet its corporate plan priority to secure better services, quality of life and value for money.

## **Equality duty**

- 5. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to -

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;

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- (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
  - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 6. The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services. As this is a progress report, we do not believe that it will have an impact on our equality duty.

## **Resource implications**

- 7. None arising from the recommendations; any additional recommendations made by the committee will be considered by the relevant manager or cabinet member and the financial implications of accepting those recommendations will be considered then.

## **Legal implications**

- 8. None

## **Risk management**

- 9. There is a risk that the level of work required to give an opinion on the council's systems of internal control is not achieved. This is mitigated by the regular active management and monitoring of progress against the agreed internal audit plan.
- 10. Risks identified by internal audit are mitigated by actions proposed by management in response. Progress on implementation of agreed actions is reported to this committee every six months.

## **Consultees**

- 11. None

## **Appendices**

Appendix A – SWAP Internal Audit plan progress report 2020-21 and Proposed Revised Internal Audit Plan 2020/21.

## **Background papers**

None