



Audit and Governance Committee 27th November 2023

Report Title	Internal Audit progress report
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List of Appendices

Appendix 1: Internal Audit progress report – November 2023

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide the committee with a progress update on the work of the Internal Audit team and the key findings from audits completed to date.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Internal Audit plan of work is subject to ongoing review and prioritisation to ensure it continues to focus on the Council's key risks. Since the last meeting of this Committee, five audit reports have been finalised and the key findings are summarised in Appendix 1.
- 2.2 During the 2023/24 financial year to date, 43% of the planned audits have been delivered to at least draft report stages and a further 33% is in fieldwork stages. This reflects that delivery is on track for this stage in the year.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Committee:
- Note the progress report attached as Appendix 1 and consider the main issues arising.
 - Approve the proposed amendments to the audit plan coverage for 2023/24, to include a 60 day audit of the shared creditors system and postpone the five specified audits from the plan.
- 3.2 Reason for Recommendations:
- For the Committee to exercise its duties and responsibilities within its Terms of Reference for receiving reports from the Internal Audit service

and considering the main issues arising; and agreeing any amendments in audit coverage.

4. Report Background

- 4.1 Since the last meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee, the Internal Audit service has been progressing fieldwork on assignments scheduled for the first half of the 2023/24 year. The key findings of five audit reports which have been finalised during the period are provided within Appendix 1 for the Committee's information. Of the five reports finalised, one received an assurance opinion of less than Moderate Assurance.
- 4.2 A copy of the Internal Audit plan for 2023/24 and the status of each assignment is provided.
- 4.3 Included within the progress report is an overview of the implementation of agreed management actions, since the last progress report to this Committee.
- 4.4 Also included in the report are proposed amendments to the audit plan coverage. To support greater assurance over a number of key services shared between Councils it has been proposed that the lead partners within the shared arrangements rotate the audit coverage rather than it being reliant on the same Council each time. The Council's Internal Audit team has been allocated responsibility for delivering a 60 day audit of the shared creditors system hosted by Cambridgeshire County Council in 2023/24. This is required to provide assurances to all four partners and allows for 15 days for each authority. The Chief Internal Auditor has proposed postponing five audits from the current plan for 2023/24 to provide the resourcing for this additional work. These are detailed, with rationale for postponement, in Appendix 1 and relate to disaster recovery, recruitment and retention of social workers, SEND action plan, IT software licensing and the Cygnum project.

5. Issues and Choices

- 5.1 The report provides an update on delivery of the internal audit work for 2023/24 and a summary of the findings of audits which have been finalised in the period.

6. Implications (including financial implications)

6.1 Resources and Financial

- 6.1.1 Not specific to this report.

6.2 Legal

- 6.2.1 Not specific to this report.

6.3 Risk

- 6.3.1 As set out within the progress report for each audit.

6.4 Consultation

6.4.1 Not required for this report.

6.5 **Consideration by Scrutiny**

6.5.1 Not required on this occasion.

6.6 **Climate Impact**

6.6.1 Not specific to this report.

6.7 **Community Impact**

6.7.1 Not specific to this report.

7. Background Papers

7.1 None.