

Audit Committee

29th July 2019



Report of: Deputy Chief Internal Auditor

Title: Internal Audit Activity Report for Period 1st April 2019 to 30th June 2019

Ward: N/A

Officer Presenting Report: Melanie Henchy-McCarthy – Deputy Chief Internal Auditor (J/S)

Recommendation

The Audit Committee considers the accumulative work of the Internal Audit Team (IA), during the period of 1st April to 30th June 2019, and the results thereof.

Summary

This report provides details of the work carried out by Internal Audit during the first quarter of 2019/20 and the results of that work. This is the first planned update provided by Internal Audit during 2019/20.

The significant issues in the report are:

- Key messages from the work completed to date are provided in section 2 of the Activity Report
- Proposed changes to the Internal Audit Assurance Plan are provided in section 2
- Proposed revisions to Internal Audit Opinions as provided in section 3, paragraph 3.7
- Section 5 of the Activity report provides details of all planned and unplanned work completed by the section in quarter one.
- Appendix A to the Activity Report provides summary details, including key findings and recommendations, for a selection of reports to give the Committee the opportunity to explore these areas further, should it wish to do so.

Policy

1. Audit Committee Terms of Reference.

Consultation

2. **Internal** - None
3. **External** - None

Context

4. This is the first 'in year' Internal Audit (IA) Activity reports to the Audit Committee. The Activity reports are designed to provide the Committee with a summary view of the work completed by the Service throughout the year to date and the results of that work. The Activity reports are provided to:
 - Provide an overview of the work of Internal Audit to date.
 - Present the assurance work completed and in progress by the Internal Audit team during the period, together with the conclusions drawn from that work.
 - Update the Committee on the Internal Audit recommendations implementation rate.
 - Spotlight audit review outcomes, both positive and negative, to management and the Audit Committee for their consideration and action, where appropriate.
 - Provide an overview of the work of the Internal Audit Counter-Fraud Team in advance of a fuller report to Committee in November 2019

The Activity Report covering the period 1st April 2019 to 30th June 2019 can be found at Appendix (A).

Proposal

5. The Audit Committee note the report.

Other Options Considered

6. N/A

Risk Assessment

7. The work of Internal Audit minimises the risk of failures in the Council's internal control, risk management and governance arrangements, reduces fraud and other losses and increases the potential for prevention and detection of such issues. Areas of significant risk are detailed in the report.

Public Sector Equality Duties

- 8a) Before making a decision, section 149 Equality Act 2010 requires that each decision-maker considers the need to promote equality for persons with the following “protected characteristics”: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Each decision-maker must, therefore, have due regard to the need to:
- i) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.
 - ii) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to --
 - remove or minimise disadvantage suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic;
 - take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of people who do not share it (in relation to disabled people, this includes, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities);
 - encourage persons who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
 - iii) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to –
 - tackle prejudice; and
 - promote understanding.
- 8b) No equality impact assessment is required for this report. The matters concern internal control, governance and risk management arrangements only.

Legal and Resource Implications

Legal – Not sought

Financial – None arising from this report.

Financial advice provided by N/A

Land/Property – Not applicable

<Land/property advice provided by N/A

Human Resources – Not applicable

HR advice provided by N/A

Appendices:

Appendix A – Internal Audit Activity Report – Period 1st April 2019 to 30th June 2019

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers:

Various Audit Files