

Report to Audit Committee

Subject: Internal Audit Draft Annual Report 2022/23

Date: 19 September 2023

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Purpose

To provide the Head of Audit Opinion based on the outcome of the internal audit activity completed by the BDO Internal Audit Team in accordance with the approved 2022/23 Internal Audit Plan.

Recommendation(s):

THAT:

- 1) Members to note the Internal Audit Annual Report and Head of Internal Audit Opinion for 2022/23**

1. Background

- 1.1 The Internal Audit Annual Report and Head of Internal Opinion for 2022/23 provides a summary of Internal Audit's work and assurance for the year from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023, in accordance with the Strategic Internal Audit Plan. The conclusion and key findings from each audit have been summarised with the control design and control effectiveness opinion.
- 1.2 Internal Audit's opinion of the Council internal controls is Limited for 2022/23, based on the balance of the opinions issued from our audits in the year, but also due to the ongoing fraud investigation.

2. Proposal

- 2.2 The role of internal audit is to provide an opinion to Full Council, through the Audit Committee, on the adequacy and effectiveness of the internal control system to ensure the achievement of the organisation's objectives in the areas reviewed. The annual report from internal audit provides an overall opinion on

the adequacy and effectiveness of the organisation's risk management, control and governance processes, within the scope of work undertaken by our firm as outsourced providers of the internal audit service.

- 2.3 The Internal Audit Annual Report and Head of Internal Audit Opinion provides an overview of the BDO Internal Audit Team activity and opinion of the Council's internal control system for 2022/23.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 The Internal Audit Plan is delivered within the approved budgets.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require authorities to undertake effective internal audits to evaluate the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance processes. This report provides Internal Audit's annual opinion for 2022/23 of the Council's controls and is provided to the Committee in accordance with the Council's Constitution and delegations contained therein.

5. Equalities Implications

- 5.1 There are no equalities implications arising directly from this report.

6. Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

- 6.1 There are no carbon reduction/environmental sustainability implications arising directly from this report.

7. Appendices

- 7.1 GBC Internal Audit Annual Report 2022/23

Statutory Officer approval

Approved by the Chief Executive Officer

Date:

Approved by the Monitoring Officer

Date: