

## **Report to Audit Committee**

**Subject:** Internal Audit Draft Annual Report 2023/24

**Date:** 23 July 2024

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### **Purpose**

To provide the Head of Internal Audit Opinion based on the outcome of the internal audit activity completed by the BDO Internal Audit Team in accordance with the approved 2023/24 Internal Audit Plan.

#### **Recommendation(s):**

##### **THAT:**

- 1) Members to note the Internal Audit Annual Report and Head of Internal Audit Opinion for 2023/24.**

### **1. Background**

- 1.1 The Internal Audit Annual Report and Head of Internal Opinion for 2023/24 provides a summary of Internal Audit's work and assurance for the year from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, in accordance with the Strategic Internal Audit Plan approved by the Audit Committee on 14 March 2023. 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 Moderate for 2023/24, based on the balance of the opinions issued from our audits in the year and the engagement with our follow up process. This is an improvement from the prior year.

### **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's activity and opinion of the Council's internal control system for 2023/24.

### **3. Financial Implications**

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

### **4. Legal Implications**

- 4.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require authorities to undertake effective internal audit to evaluate the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance processes. This report provides internal audit's annual opinion of the Council's system of internal controls for 2023/24 and is provided to this 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 BDO - GBC - 2324 - Annual Report