

Name of meeting: CORPORATE GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE
Date: 22 APRIL 2022
Title of report: QUARTERLY REPORT OF INTERNAL AUDIT Q4 2021/22
 JANUARY 2022 TO MARCH 2022

Purpose of report.

To provide information about internal audit work in quarter 4 of 2021/22

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	not applicable
Key Decision - Is it in the Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)	not applicable
The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?	not applicable
Date signed off by Strategic Director & name	not applicable
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance IT and Transactional Services?	not applicable
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning Support?	not applicable
Cabinet member portfolio	not applicable

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: None

Public or private: Public with a private appendix

The appendix to this report is recommended for consideration in private because the information contained in it is exempt information within part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 namely that the report contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). The public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information and providing greater openness in the Council's decision making.

Have you considered GDPR? Yes

1. Summary

1.1 This report sets out the activities of Internal Audit in the final quarter of 2021/22.

- 1.2 A full normal work pattern has not yet been resumed. The working patterns of the entire council (“working from home”), and an inability to visit sites (and conducting some such audits virtually) continues to an extent to frustrate the ability to do internal audit work, and provide a strong level of assurance, and or requires substantial additional time for work to be completed (both from the auditor and the client). Notwithstanding this, the report provides information about two investigations regarding the cumulation of a significant business rate grant fraud investigation, and allegations about a contractor. There are 17 formal completed pieces of work, which included 6 schools (all substantial assurance) and 5 follow ups (intro areas such as community grants, bank reconciliation) all with positive assurance outcomes. Of the new work there were positive outcomes in most areas (including residential placements, climate change actions, and It networks), but a need for improvement in relation to aspects of adults emergency duty services and school transport.
- 1.3 Internal Audit also continued with its activity to support several governance areas and has reviewed certain grants and payment regimes,
- 1.4 It was agreed at March 2018 Council that this committee consider any surveillance activities under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. There are none this quarter.

2. **Information required to take a decision**

- 2.1 The detail of the audit work performed this quarter is contained within the private Appendix.

3. **Implications for the Council**

- 3.1 **Working with People** – None directly
- 3.2 **Working with Partners** – None directly
- 3.3 **Place Based Working** – None directly
- 3.4 **Improving outcomes for children**– None directly
- 3.5 **Climate change and air quality**- None directly
- 3.6 **Other (e.g., Legal/Financial or Human Resources)**- Although each of the sub categorisations above suggest no direct implications, the work of internal audit covers all aspects of the Council’s operations, including elements of the above, either specifically, indirectly or on a commissioned basis. The main issues relate to those areas highlighted above- where there are risks associated with basic processing arrangements and delivering sound governance and control.

4. **Consultees and their opinions**

There are no consultees to this report although heads of service/directors are involved in and respond to individual pieces of work

5. **Next steps and timelines**

- 5.1 To consider if any additional activity is sought. (Limited assurance audit outcomes are routinely followed up)

6. **Officer recommendations and reasons**

- 6.1 Members are asked to note the Internal Audit Quarterly Report and determine if any further action is sought on any matter identified.

- 6.2 Members are also asked to note that there has been no Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act activity during the period quarter 4 2021/22.
7. **Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations**
Not applicable
8. **Contact officer**
Martin Dearnley, Head of Risk & Internal Audit (01484 221000 x73672)
9. **Background Papers and History of Decisions**
Previous Quarterly Reports, Audit Plan, and confidential appendix.
10. **Service Director responsible**
Not applicable