

Report to: **Audit Committee**
Date: **6 September 2022**
Title: **Update on Progress on the 2022-23 Internal Audit Plan**
Portfolio Area: **Performance & Resources - Cllr C Edmonds**
Wards Affected: **All**
Urgent Decision: **N** Approval and clearance obtained: **Y**

Author: **Paul Middlemass** Role: **Audit Manager**
Contact: Paul.Middlemass@devon.gov.uk **07736 155687**
Tony.Rose@devon.gov.uk **01392 383000**

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

1. The Internal Audit Charter and Strategy is approved.
2. The progress made against the 2022/23 internal audit plan, and any key issues arising are noted and approved.

1. Executive summary

The purpose of this report is to obtain the approval of the Committee for the Audit Charter and Strategy, and to inform members of the principal activities and findings of the Council's Internal Audit team.

2. Background

The Audit Committee, under its Terms of Reference contained in West Devon Borough Council's Constitution, is required to consider and approve the Charter and Strategy and Annual Report, and to monitor and review the internal audit programme and findings, and the associated progress and performance of Internal Audit.

The Accounts and Audit (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2015 require that all Authorities need to carry out an annual review of the effectiveness of their internal audit system and need to incorporate the results of that review into their Annual Governance Statement (AGS), published with the annual Statement of Accounts.

The purpose and role of Internal Audit, and of the related Council responsibilities is also contained in the Internal Audit Charter and Strategy that is attached for approval at Appendix A.

3. Outcomes/outputs

Members will note a change in format for documents as we take the opportunity to refresh our progress report. We also intend to transition to our standard DAP audit reports which provide a clearer picture of assurance and risk.

4. Options available and consideration of risk

No alternative operation has been considered as the function of internal audit is a requirement of Corporate Governance.

5. Proposed Way Forward

That Audit Committee approves the Audit Charter and Strategy (Appendix A) and notes the results of Internal Audit work (Appendix B) undertaken during the period.

6. Implications

Implications	Relevant to proposals Y/N	Details and proposed measures to address
Legal/Governance	Y	<p>The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 issued by the Secretary of State require every local authority to undertake an effective internal audit to evaluate the effectiveness of its risk management, control and governance processes, taking into account public sector internal auditing standards.</p> <p>The work of the internal audit service assists the Council in maintaining high standards of public accountability and probity in the use of public funds. The service has a role in promoting robust service planning, performance monitoring and review throughout the organisation, together with ensuring compliance with the Council's statutory obligations.</p>
Financial	Y	There are no additional or new financial implications arising from this report. The cost of the internal audit team is in line with budget expectations.
Risk	Y	The work of the internal audit service is an intrinsic element of the Council's overall corporate governance, risk management and internal control framework.
Supporting Corporate Strategy	Y	This Progress Report and the work of Internal Audit supports all of the Council's corporate strategy themes.

Climate Change – Carbon / Biodiversity Impact	Y	None directly arising from this report. The Internal Audit function, managed by Devon Audit Partnership is very mindful of the need to minimise travel in completing the internal audit plan. Where possible, desk-top review of documents, and the use of electronic records, is used to support the audit process, although it is inevitable that on-site verification may be required at times. The team use an audit management system (Mki) which enables managerial review to take place remotely, thus also saving on the need for travel.
Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications		
Equality and Diversity	N	There are no specific equality and diversity issues arising from this report.
Safeguarding	N	There are no specific safeguarding issues arising from this report.
Community Safety, Crime and Disorder	N	There are no specific community safety, crime and disorder issues arising from this report.
Health, Safety and Wellbeing	N	There are no specific health, safety and wellbeing issues arising from this report.
Other implications	N	There are no other specific implications arising from this report.

Supporting Information

Appendices:

Appendix A – Internal Audit Charter and Strategy

Appendix B – Internal Audit Progress Report

Background Papers:

Internal Audit Plan 2022/23 as approved by Audit Committee.

Approval and clearance of report

Process checklist	Completed
Portfolio Holder briefed	Yes
SLT Rep briefed	Yes
Relevant Exec Director sign off (draft)	Yes
Data protection issues considered	Yes
If exempt information, public (part 1) report also drafted. (Committee/Scrutiny)	N/A