
Report to: Governance and Audit Committee

Date: 28 July 2022

Subject: **Internal Audit Annual Report and Opinion**

Director: Angela Taylor, Director of Corporate and Commercial Services

Author: Bron Baker, Head of Internal Audit

Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information or appendices?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, state paragraph number of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, Part 1:	
Are there implications for equality and diversity?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1. To ask members to consider and note the contents of the report and supporting appendix detailing the Head of Internal Audit's Opinion for 2021/22.

2. Information

Background

- 2.1 As the Committee will be aware, the Head of Internal Audit is required to give an annual opinion on controls, governance and risk management for inclusion in the annual governance statement. This opinion needs to be based on the work conducted by Internal Audit and takes into account other forms of assurance for example, external assurance from partners that we work with and management assurances (second line of defence).
- 2.2 While there have been some very specific issues in 2021/22 related to resourcing constraints, Internal Audit has managed to complete sufficient work against the plan, both advisory and assurance, to enable the provision of an opinion which has not had to be limited by the volume and scope of work undertaken for this year.

Opinion

- 2.3 The opinion for this last year is that systems of control, governance and risk management have been adequate for 2021/22.
- 2.4 As always, Internal Audit will continue to monitor progress against recommendations made to improve controls and governance and will continue to report progress to Governance and Audit Committee and the Regulatory & Compliance Board. This helps to ensure that learning and recommended areas for improvement are shared more widely with Directorate Management Teams through their R&C Board directorate representatives.

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

- 3.1 There are no climate emergency implications directly arising from this report.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 4.1 There are no inclusive growth implications directly arising from this report.

5. Equality and Diversity Implications

- 5.1 There are no equality and diversity implications directly arising from this report.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

8. Staffing Implications

- 8.1 There are no staffing implications directly arising from this report.

9. External Consultees

- 9.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

10. Recommendations

- 10.1 That the Committee consider and note the internal audit annual opinion.

11. Background Documents

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

12. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Internal Audit Report and Opinion 2021/22