

Report to: Governance and Audit Committee

Date: 22 March 2023

Subject: **Internal Audit Progress Report**

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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 the contents of the report and supporting appendix 1 detailing progress against the current plan for 22/23.

2. Information

Audit Delivery for 2022/23

Recruitment

- 2.1 This remains a concern. Work with a new agency that provides temporary and permanent recruitment assistance has confirmed the same issues as direct recruitment efforts and attempts to procure co-source support. Work is, however, continuing between the audit and human resources team to try and identify other possible actions to support securing additional resource.

Work against the audit plan

- 2.2 As detailed in Appendix 1 work remains underway on the 22/23 plan and while the team have struggled to meet some of the KPIs, in particular 'progress against the plan', confidence remains high that the plan will be delivered on time for next year's 22/23 opinion. This is particularly because of the volume of work in progress and at draft report stage.

- 2.3 The action that has been taken by the team in relation to the follow up of recommendations is also contained in Appendix 1 with a fuller narrative update on progress from the minimal assurance report notified to the Governance and Audit Committee in January 2023.

Fraud/Whistleblowing/Money Laundering

- 2.4 Two whistleblowing referrals have been received to date in 22/23, one is currently being investigated as a possible external fraud case by the relevant local authority and the other is being dealt with internally. Three fraud referrals have also been received with one internal and two external, two of these are currently at investigation stage, while one of the external referrals has concluded with no fraud identified.

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 progress update.

11. Background Documents

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

12. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Internal Audit Progress Report