

NON EXEMPT

EAST HAMPSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

14 September 2021

INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT 2021-22 (July 2021)

**Deputy Head of the Southern Internal Audit
Partnership**

ITEM NO

FOR DECISION

Key Decision: No

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1** The purpose of this paper is to provide the Audit Committee with an overview of internal audit activity against assurance work completed in accordance with the approved audit plan and to provide an overview of the status of 'live' reports.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1** That the Audit Committee note the Internal Audit Progress Report, reflecting progress to 31 July 2021, as attached at Appendix 1.

3.0 Summary

- 3.1** Under the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015, the Council is responsible for:

- ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control which facilitates the effective exercise of functions and includes arrangements for the management of risk; and
- undertaking an adequate and effective internal audit of its accounting records and of its system of internal control in accordance with the proper practices in relation to internal control.

- 3.2** In accordance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and the Council's Internal Audit Charter, the Chief Internal Auditor is required to provide a written status report to Audit Committee summarising:

'communications on the internal audit activity's performance relative to its plan.'

3.3 Appendix 1 summarises the performance of Internal Audit for 2021-22 to 31 July 2021.

4.0 Implications

4.1 Resources:

Internal Audit is provided through the Southern Internal Audit Partnership. The audit plan consists of 300 audit days and remains fluid throughout the year to meet the changing needs of the Council.

4.2 Legal:

Compliance with the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015.

4.3 Strategy:

Internal audit plays a vital role in helping the organisation accomplish its objectives by bringing a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance processes.

4.4 Risks:

The audit needs assessment follows a risk-based audit approach taking cognisance of the Council's risk register.

4.5 Communications:

None directly from this report.

4.6 Customers & Community:

None directly from this report although improvements to controls and governance arrangements will ensure more efficient and effective service delivery.

4.7 Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA):

n/a

5.0 Consultation

5.1 The report has been discussed and noted by the Management Team who met at the Executive Board on 31st August 2021.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Internal Audit Progress Report 2021-22 (July 21)

Agreed and signed off by:

Legal Services: Daniel Toohey, Head of Legal Services; and

Finance: Lydia Morrison, Chief Finance Officer.

Contact Officer: Antony Harvey
Job Title: Deputy Head of the Southern Internal Audit Partnership
Telephone: 07784 265289
E-Mail: antony.harvey@hants.gov.uk