

## **AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

### **29 JULY 2021**

## **INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT**

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### **Recommendations**

- 1. The Chief Internal Auditor recommends that the Internal Audit progress report be noted.**

### **Background**

2. The role of the Council's Internal Audit service is to enhance and protect organisational value by providing independent assurance, advice and insight into the Council's risk management, governance, and internal control processes.

### **Audit and compliance 2021/22 Q1 deliverables and Q2 plan**

3. The first quarter of 2021/22 covered completion of 2020/21 audits (as reported in the 2020/21 Annual audit report) and progress against the 2021/22 plan. Progress as at the end of June 2021 is shown in Appendix 1, including planned audits for the remainder of the year.

### **Audit actions update**

4. We are working closely with operational service managers to ensure that actions are undertaken. For actions relating to limited assurance audits where a follow up audit is planned, actions are transferred to the new audit. As the work is currently ongoing and we will provide detailed analysis in our quarter 2 report.

### **Anti-Fraud and Corruption**

5. There have been 2 investigations undertaken in the first quarter. Investigations have been completed and no evidence found to require further action.
6. The Council continues to engage with the National Fraud Initiative programme, providing key data sets to the Cabinet Office to enable matches to be identified and investigated. The process is currently underway, and progress will be reported in due course.

### **Advisory services**

7. A post process review has been undertaken following a breakdown of contractual arrangements. The review identified improvements to the procurement and contract management process which have been reported to the relevant service areas.

## **Grant certifications**

8. Our grant certification work supports the Council in ensuring that money claimed from government agencies is correctly accounted for and we work closely with operational teams to deliver this. 3 grants have been certified as accurate during the first quarter. We continue to see increases in the number of grants which require certification and are working closely with service areas to ensure adequate planning and quality of evidence provision. Details of certifications are given in Appendix 1.

## **Staffing**

9. 3 Principal Auditors started in the first quarter and have already made positive contributions to the team. Following an internal recruitment process 1 of the Principal Auditors has been promoted to the role of Audit and Compliance Manager. We are considering recruitment options.

10. 2 new apprentices also started with the team in April as part of the Financial Services rotation and have successfully integrated into the team and are providing key support to the work of team.

11. We have been working with the HR Organisational Development team and introduced a team development training programme. This programme supports individual and team development and will continue for the remainder of the year.

## **Contact Points**

### Specific Contact Points for this report

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## **Supporting Information**

Appendix 1: Audit and grant certification quarter 1 report

## **Background Papers**

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Chief Internal Auditor) there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report.