

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

22 JULY 2022

INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT

Recommendations

1. The Chief Internal Auditor recommends that the Internal Audit progress report be agreed.

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 2022/23 Q1 deliverables and Q2 plan

3. The first quarter of 2022/23 covered completion of 2021/22 audits (as reported in the 2021/22 Annual audit report) and progress against the 2022/23 plan. Progress as at the end of June 2021 is shown in Appendix 1, including planned audits for quarter 2.

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 no investigations undertaken in the first quarter of 2022/2023.

Advisory services

6. Advisory work this quarter includes being involved in the Fair Cost of Care process to offer guidance where required.

Grant certifications

7. 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. 2 grants have been certified as accurate during the first quarter. Details of certifications are given in Appendix 1.

Staffing

8. This meeting is the last Jenni Morris will be attending as Chief Internal Auditor as she is leaving the Council on 31 July 2022. The Chief Internal Auditor of the Worcestershire Internal Audit Shared Services will act in the statutory role for the Council and provide formal support to the Audit and Compliance Manager, who will manage the audit service on a day-to-day basis.

9. The team continues to develop, and we have a healthy mix of qualified staff and those undertaking training. All staff have regular performance reviews in line with the Council framework, undertake all mandatory training and have regular 1 to 1 sessions.

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.