

## **AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

### **10 MARCH 2023**

## **INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT**

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### **Recommendations**

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

### **Background**

- 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 overall risk management, governance, anti-fraud and corruption and internal control processes.

### **Audit and compliance 2022/23 deliverables and plan**

- Progress against the 2022/2023 audit plan continues and is shown in detail at Appendix 1. The dashboard below provides an overview including the status of reviews.

<b>Status</b>	<b>Quarter 1</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b>	<b>Quarter 3</b>	<b>Quarter 4 to date</b>
Grants Certified	2	5	8	10
Grants - Start Fieldwork		2	1	2
Audit - End Audit		3	3	7
Audit - Responses received			1	1
Audit - Draft report issued			1	3
Audit - End Fieldwork	2	2	2	1
Audit - Start Fieldwork	6	2	6	7
Audit - Terms of Reference Agreed		2		
	<b>10</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>31</b>

The figures are compounded but are broken down into quarters to show the deliverables as the year progresses.

### **Audit actions update**

- 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. Audit report actions are included in Appendix 2

## **Anti-Fraud and Corruption**

5. The National Fraud Initiative (NFI) is a data matching exercise within and between public and private sector bodies to help prevent and detect fraudulent activity. The Council have received back all the NFI reports which require review and we are working with service areas to ensure timely review of the matches.

6. Since the last Committee of the 4 open reported inquiries, 2 have been closed and for 2 we are continuing with our inquiries. We have received a further 5 inquiries which have been considered and appropriate action has been undertaken either by investigation by Internal Audit or service areas reviewing the inquiry. 3 of these have been closed and 2 remain open.

## **Advisory Services**

7. Since our last report we are undertaking advisory work with the Archaeology service to offer guidance where required.

## **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. 10 grants have been certified as accurate to date. Details of certifications are given in Appendix 1.

## **Staffing**

9. Currently the Audit and Compliance Manager is overseeing the day-to-day operational aspects of the Internal Audit Service with support from the Chief Internal Auditor of the Worcestershire Internal Audit Shared Services. This arrangement is set to continue until at least the end of the financial year.

10. As reported in November 2022 we had two vacancies within the Internal Audit service. We have successfully recruited an agency member of staff on a temporary basis to one of the posts and are now actively seeking to recruit to the other post.

11. 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**

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## **Supporting Information**

Appendix 1 Audit Status  
Appendix 2 Audit Actions

## **Background Papers**

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