

Regulation Audit & Accounts Committee

20 November 2020

External Quality Assessment of Southern Internal Audit Partnership

Report by Director of Finance & Support Services /Head of Southern Internal Audit Partnership

Summary

The purpose of this paper is to present the outcome of the recent external quality assessment of the Southern Internal Audit Partnership against the International Professional Practices Framework, Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and Local Government Application Note required as part of the Standards (Attribute Standard 1312 – External Assessment).

Recommendations

- (1) That the Committee note the External Quality Assessment Report as attached

Proposal

1 Background and context

- 1.1 The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 – S5 state:

'(1) A relevant body must undertake an effective internal audit to evaluate the effectiveness of its risk management, control and governance processes, taking into account public sector internal auditing standards or guidance.'

- 1.2 The Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and the Local Government Application Note together comprise 'internal auditing standards and guidance' as referenced in the Regulations.
- 1.3 The Public Sector Internal Audit Standards require the Head of the Southern Internal Audit Partnership to develop and maintain a quality assurance and improvement programme that covers all aspects of the internal audit service including provision for both internal and external quality assessments.
- 1.4 An external quality assessment is required to be undertaken every five years by an independent assessment team from outside of the organisation. To fulfil this requirement the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA) were commissioned to undertake the external assessment.
- 1.5 The external assessment was completed during 4th – 11th September 2020. The review included a thorough validation of the SIAP's self-assessment, a comprehensive review of existing policies procedures and practices, a significant

number of interviews with key stakeholders across our partner and client organisations, SIAP team members, as well as an extensive customer survey.

2 Conclusion

- 2.1 The external assessment concluded that the Southern Internal Audit Partnership conform to all aspects of the International Professional Performance Framework, Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and Local Government Application Note.
- 2.2 In assessing the SIAP against the IIA's Maturity Matrix, the assessors concluded that the SIAP team are:

Excellent in their:

- Reflection of the Standards
- Focus on performance, risk and adding value
- Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme

Good in their:

- Operating with efficiency
- Coordinating and maximising assurance

- 2.3 Appendix A provides the external quality assessment report

3 Risk implications and mitigations

Risk	Mitigating Action (in place or planned)
Services not addressing key management actions arising from the audit findings	Follow up audit review will be undertaken to ensure that agreed actions have been implemented. A report detailing the status of high priority management actions will be presented to each meeting of this Committee for monitoring to ensure that key risks are addressed on a timely basis

Katharine Eberhart

Director of Finance and Support Services

Contact Officer: Neil Pitman, Head of Southern Internal Audit Partnership,
neil.pitman@hants.gov.uk

Appendices

Appendix A – External Quality Assessment Report

Background papers

None