

Regulation Audit & Accounts Committee

19 July 2021

Internal Audit Annual Report & Opinion 2020-21

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

Summary

The purpose of this paper is to provide the Regulation Audit & Accounts Committee with the annual audit opinion (2020-21) summarising internal audits opinion on the Council's framework of governance, risk and control.

Recommendations

- (1) That the Committee approve the annual audit report and opinion for the year ended 2020-21.

Proposal

1 Background and context

- 1.1 Internal Audit is an assurance function whose primary purpose is to provide an independent and objective opinion to the organisation on the control environment comprising risk management, control and governance, in support of the objectives of the Council.
- 1.2 The annual audit plan is prepared to take into account key areas of risk and was approved by the Regulation, Audit & Accounts Committee (RAAC). The internal audit plan has been delivered in accordance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS).
- 1.3 Audit work has been undertaken to obtain all information and explanations considered necessary to provide sufficient assurance that the control environment is both reasonable and effective. Whilst no assurance can ever be absolute, on the basis of audit work completed, it is the Head of Internal Audit's opinion that the County Council's framework of governance, risk management and control is 'reasonable'.

Risk	Mitigating Action (in place or planned)
There are risks associated with services not addressing key recommendations 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 Internal Audit recommendations will be presented to ELT and each meeting of this Committee for monitoring to ensure that key risks are addressed in a timely manner.

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Appendices

Appendix A – Internal Audit Annual Report & Opinion 2020-21

Background papers

None