



**REPORT of  
INTERIM CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

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**to  
PERFORMANCE, GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE  
7 MARCH 2024**

**INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To present for consideration, comment, and approval by the Committee the following reports issued by BDO LLP, the Council's Internal Audit service provider:
- 7a – Progress Report;
  - 7b - Follow-Up of Recommendations Report;
  - 7c - Housing benefits
  - 7d - Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation
  - 7e - Climate Change and Sustainability.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Committee considers, comments, and approves the following:

- (I) Progress Report at 7a;
- (II) Follow-Up of Recommendations Report at 7b;
- (III) Housing Benefits at 7c;
- (iv) Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation at 7d;
- (v) Climate Change and Sustainability at 7e.

**3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES**

- 3.1 BDO LLP are the Council's contracted Internal Audit Service provider. The Director, Mr. Aaron Winter, fulfils an equivalent role to that of Head of Internal Audit.
- 3.2 The Internal Audit Service is there to provide assurance to the Interim Chief Finance Officer, Management and Members of the adequacy of internal controls and checks in the organisation and to highlight any risks that the Council may be exposed to in its overall and day to day operations.
- 3.3 As such, Internal Audit is independent of Management and operates, performs to and is measured against The UK Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).

3.4 The reports attached from BDO at 9a to 9e will be presented to the Committee and discussed by Mr Aaron Winter or his representative on his behalf.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

4.1 This report allows the Committee to fulfil its remit of overseeing governance.

#### **5. IMPACT ON PRIORITIES AS SET OUT IN THE CORPORATE PLAN 2023 - 2027**

5.1 Internal Audit cuts across the delivery of all priorities in the Corporate Plan.

#### **6. IMPLICATIONS**

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – Any impact on customers will be highlighted with the reports in the appendices.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – Any impact on equalities will be highlighted with the reports in the appendices if it is within the scope of the audit work carried out.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk (including Fraud implications)** – Any risks identified as a result of the findings of the internal audit work are highlighted with the individual reports and summarised in the Progress Update and Follow Up of recommendations reports.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – Same comment applies here as for Impact on Risk above.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – Same comment applies here as for Impact on Risk above.

Background papers: None.

Enquiries to:

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