



**REPORT of
INTERIM CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

**to
PERFORMANCE, GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE
18 JULY 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:
- Annual Report and Annual Statement of Assurance 2023 / 24 at 8a;
 - Progress Report 2023 / 2024 and 2024 / 25– at 8b;
 - Follow-Up of Recommendations Report – July 2024 – at 8c;
 - Main Financial Systems 2023 / 24 Final Report –June 2024 at 8d;
 - Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Financial Management Code 2023 / 24 Final Report – June 2024 – at 8e;

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

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

- (i) Annual Report and Annual Statement of Assurance 2023 / 24 at 8a;
- (ii) Progress Report 2023 / 2024 and 2024 / 25– at 8b;
- (iii) Follow-Up of Recommendations Report – July 2024 – at 8c;
- (iv) Main Financial Systems 2023 / 24 Final Report –June 2024 at 8d;
- (v) CIPFA Financial Management Code 2023 / 24 Final Report – June 2024 – at 8e;

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 for the Council.
- 3.2 The Internal Audit Service provides assurance to the Interim Chief Finance Officer, management and Members of the adequacy of internal controls and checks in the organisation and highlights any risks that the Council may be exposed to in its operations.
- 3.3 As such, Internal Audit is independent of management and operates within the UK Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) issued by the CIPFA.

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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