

WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Report Title Internal Audit update to June 2023

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Contributors/Checkers/Approvers

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List of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Internal Audit progress report 2023-24

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on work delivered by the Internal Audit team up to 30 June 2023.

2. Executive Summary

2.1 The Internal Audit service provides assurance that organisational controls are effective and adequately mitigating risk. We also provide counter fraud services, supporting the Council in preventing and investigating fraudulent activity.

3. Recommendations

3.1 It is recommended that the Committee review and endorse the position.

4. Reason for Recommendations

4.1 The Audit and Governance Committee is responsible for:

- Providing independent assurance as to the Council’s governance, risk management framework and associated control environment
- Providing independent scrutiny of the Council’s financial and non-financial performance and oversee the Council’s financial reporting process

5. Report Background

5.1 We provide the Audit and Governance Committee with regular updates.

6. Issues and Choices

Internal audit and grant certification

6.1 A detailed progress report for audit activity and grant certifications is attached at Appendix 1 and summarised below.

Audit stage	
Not started	22
Planning stage	3
Fieldwork in progress	1
Draft report	
Completed	
Total	26

Audit plan changes

6.2 The 2023-24 internal audit plan was approved at the 14 June 2023 Audit and Governance Committee and any changes to the plan will be reported and considered as part of our quarterly updates.

6.2.1 Added audit: Corporate Health and Safety limited assurance follow up. As part of our standard process, we will meet with operational managers regularly and determine the most appropriate follow up.

6.2.2 Removed audit: DTI Telephony procurement review. We received a request for an audit review of the DTI telephony procurement, however a review has been undertaken by the procurement team. We will engage with the lessons learned from this process to inform procurement audit activity.

Limited assurance audits

6.3 We proactively monitor all limited assurance audits, and we meet with operational managers to ensure that progress is being made to mitigate the control issues raised in the audit, and to ensure that the actions remain applicable and are being actioned. This approach enables us to determine the most appropriate follow up mechanism.

6.4 Updates are provided below for limited assurance audits with open management actions.

6.4.1

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

6.4.2

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

6.4.3 Home to School

An audit meeting took place with the Home to School team on the 27 June to obtain outstanding evidence and perform a walkthrough of manual processes to allow the audit to be closed. All recommendations are satisfied, and a further audit is scheduled during 2024-2025 following the implementation of a new system in April 2024.

6.4.4 Taxi Licensing

Of 13 audit actions, 2 were marked as 'Essential' and the due date is marked as September 2023. A meeting was held on the 4 July to obtain a service update and agree with the service manager to work with the team to gather evidence relating to manual checks with a view to closing the audit in September when the policy revision has been approved.

7. Implications (including financial implications)

7.1 Resources and Financial

7.1.1 There are no resources or financial implications arising from the proposals.

7.2 Legal implications

7.2.1 Internal Audit support the Council to meet its obligations under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015

7.3 Risk

7.3.1 There are no risks directly related to the service.

7.4 Consultation

7.4.1 No consultation is required

7.5 **Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny**

7.5.1 No Overview and Scrutiny comments

7.6 **Climate Impact**

7.6.1 There are not direct climate or environmental implications

7.7 **Community Impact**

7.7.1 There is no community impact

7.8 **Communications**

7.8.1 There are no recommended communications

8. Background Papers

8.1 Previous Internal Audit reports to Committee.