

## Head of Internal Audit Update

**AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> April 2010

**Author: Head of Internal Audit**

**Wards Affected: None**

### **Purpose**

To present Members with a summary of the main issues arising from the Internal Audit reports finalised since the Audit Committee meeting in March, and to update Members with regard to progress against the annual internal audit plan.

### **Recommendation**

- It is recommended that the contents of the report be noted.

## **1 Reasons**

- 1.1 The Council's Audit Committee has a strategic role to ensure that the Council's assurance framework is operating effectively. To this end it should seek assurance that key areas that contribute to this framework are operating properly.
- 1.2 The Council's Internal Audit section is a key component of the assurance framework and therefore it is essential that this Committee monitor its performance against the annual plan along with the implementation of agreed recommendations by Client departments.

## **2 Detail**

### Reports Issued

- 2.1 Details of Internal Audit reports finalised since the March Audit Committee are set out in Appendix 1. The appendix sets out a summary of the audit recommendations made along with the overall risk assessment to the Council.

### Progress on completion of Internal Audit Plan 2009/10

- 2.2 We have completed 88% of the number of audits in the 2009/10 Internal audit annual plan against a target of 92% (see Appendix 2).
- 2.3 My annual report for 2009/10 will be presented to the June meeting of the Committee and will provide more detail on the section's performance in 2009/10.

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#### Alternative Options

Not Applicable

#### Risk Management

##### *Financial and Procurement Implications*

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report however individual audit reports address the suitability of internal controls within the systems examined.

##### *Legal/Human Rights Implications*

Internal Audit is a statutory requirement of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2006. The Internal Audit service also provides assurance to the Director of Finance regarding the requirements of Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972.

##### *Links to Corporate Plans and Policies (in particular to Swindon 2010 Promises)*

Internal Control, Audit Committee and the Statement on Internal Control all feature significantly in the CPA Use of Resources Assessment. Effective systems of internal control within the Council will help to ensure that the objectives set out in the Corporate Plan and Swindon 2010 are achieved.

#### Consultees

The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and the Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted on all reports.

#### Appendices / Background papers

Appendix 1 – Internal Audit Reports finalised since the March 2010 Audit Committee.

Appendix 2 – Progress against 2009/10 Internal Audit plan.

#### Key Decision/Decision in Forward Plan

Not Applicable