

Head of Internal Audit Update

Audit Committee

Date: 15th July 2014

Author: Head of Internal Audit
Wards: None
Locality Affected: None
Parishes Affected: None

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 To present Members with a summary of the main issues arising from the Internal Audit reports finalised since the Audit Committee meeting in April 2014, to update Members with regard to progress against the annual internal audit plan and other key issues.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 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. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

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

3. Detail

Reports Issued

- 3.1 Details of Internal Audit reports finalised since the April 2014 Audit Committee are set out in Appendix 1. The appendix sets out the key audit recommendations made along with the overall risk assessment to the Council.

Progress on completion of Internal Audit Plan 2014/15

- 3.2 The progress made against the 2014/15 audit plan is set out in Appendix 2.
- 3.3 To date 16% of the number of audits in the Annual Internal Audit plan has been completed against a target of 15% as at the end of May 2014.

Section update

- 3.4 As reported previously one of our members of staff has taken a year career break. We have found it difficult to recruit to this position on a temporary basis. After several rounds of adverts and interviews we made an appointment.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Nick Hobbs,
Direct Dial Telephone Number: 01793 463940, nhobbs@swindon.gov.uk.

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Unfortunately the person appointed has found another job so will be leaving us after only a few weeks. We are currently assessing how best to fill this temporary vacancy.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 Not Applicable

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2 Internal Audit is a statutory requirement of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011. The Internal Audit service also provides assurance to the Director of Finance regarding the requirements of Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972.

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.3 None

Links to One Swindon, Strategic Objectives, Plans and Policies

- 5.4 Internal Audit's remit is to examine the adequacy of the Council's governance, risk management and internal controls. Effective systems of governance, risk management and internal control within the Council will help to ensure that the objectives set out in One Swindon and the Council's Corporate Strategy is achieved.

Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.5 None

Risk Management

- 5.6 Potential risks to the Council are identified in the individual audit reports summarised in Appendices 1 and 2.

6. Consultees

- 6.1 The Board Director: Resources (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.
- 6.2 All Heads of Service, Board Directors and Members who have contributed to individual audits during the course of 2014/15.

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7. Background Papers

7.1 None

8. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Internal Audit Reports finalised since the April 2014 Audit Committee.

Appendix 2 – Progress against the Internal Audit plan 2014/15