

Report to: Audit Committee
Date of meeting: 16 March 2011
Report of: Audit Manager
Title: Interim Internal Audit Annual Report 2010/2011

1.0 **SUMMARY**

This report introduces the Audit Manager's Interim Annual Report on the work of the Internal Audit Service for 2010/2011 and his opinion of the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's control environment (attached).

2.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 That the contents of the interim annual internal audit report be noted.

Contact Officer:

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Report approved by: Bernard Clarke, Head of Strategic Finance

3.0 **DETAILED PROPOSAL**

3.1 Members are invited to discuss the contents of the Audit Manager's interim annual report.

3.2 CIPFA's *Code of Practice for Internal Audit* requires that the Head of Internal Audit must provide an annual report to those charged with governance which must:

- Include an opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the control environment
- Disclose any qualifications to that opinion together with the reasons for the qualification
- Present a summary of the audit work from which the opinion is derived, including reliance placed on work by other assurance bodies
- Draw attention to any issues the Head of Internal Audit judges particularly relevant to the preparation of the Annual Governance Statement
- Compare the work actually undertaken with the work that was planned and summarise the performance of the internal audit function against its performance measures and targets
- Comment on compliance with the CIPFA standards and communicate the results of the Internal Audit quality assurance programme.

3.3 This report would normally be presented to the June meeting of the Committee to enable it to cover the work undertaken by Internal Audit throughout the whole financial year. As the Audit Manager is retiring at the end of March, and this opinion is required for the production of the Annual Governance Statement, it is appropriate that he presents a report now. There are still a number of audits underway. In the event that, once they are completed, there is a need to revise the interim opinion, a revised opinion will be submitted to the next meeting of the Audit Committee.

4.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 **Financial**

4.1.1 The Head of Strategic Finance comments that there are no immediate implications arising from this report.

4.2 **Legal Issues** (Monitoring Officer)

4.2.1 The Head of Legal and Property Services comments that the legal implications are dealt with in the body of the report. The Council is under a duty to maintain an adequate and effective system of internal audit of its system of its accounting records and of its systems of internal control and the Audit Manager is required to present an annual report, including an opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the control environment, to those charged with governance.

4.3 Potential Risks

4.3.1	Potential Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Overall score
	The most significant potential risk relates to the possibility that Internal Audit is of poor quality and ineffective. This could lead to an increase in control weaknesses, in greater risks to the Council and to a loss of confidence by the external auditors in Internal Audit and the Council's control environment.	1	3	3

Background Papers

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report. If you wish to inspect or take copies of the background papers, please contact the officer named on the front page of the report:

Internal Audit Files.

File Reference

None.