

PART A

Report to: Audit Committee
Date of meeting: 29 September 2011
Report of: Acting Audit Manager
Title: Internal Audit Annual Report 2010/2011

1.0 SUMMARY

This report introduces the Acting Audit Manager's Final 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 final annual internal audit report for 2010/2011 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 Acting Audit Manager's annual report for 2010/2011. This provides an updated audit opinion on the control environment for that year.

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 An interim report was presented to the Committee in March as the Audit Manager was retiring at the end of that month. This gave an interim opinion on the control environment, based on the work to date, as required for the production of the Annual Governance Statement. Now that work has been completed, and the Acting Audit Manager has had the opportunity to consider the whole year's work, a revised opinion is being submitted to 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