

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Audit and Governance Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup> July 2022</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Internal Audit Activity Progress Report 2021/22</b>		
<b>Report Of:</b>	<b>Head of Audit Risk Assurance (ARA)</b>		
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>		
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Budget/Policy Framework:</b>	<b>No</b>
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<b>Appendices:</b>	<b>A: Internal Audit Activity Progress Report 2021/22</b>		

## FOR GENERAL RELEASE

### 1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To inform Members of the Internal Audit activity progress and final position on the approved Internal Audit Plan 2021/22.

### 2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Audit and Governance Committee is asked to **RESOLVE** to:
- i. Accept the progress and final position on the Internal Audit Plan 2021/22; and
  - ii. Accept the assurance opinions provided in relation to the effectiveness of the Council's control environment (comprising risk management, control and governance arrangements).

### 3.0 Background and Key Issues

- 3.1 Members approved the Internal Audit Plan 2021/22 at the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 Audit and Governance Committee meeting. In accordance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards 2017 (PSIAS), this report (through **Appendix A**) details the outcomes of Internal Audit work carried out in accordance with the approved Plan.
- 3.2 The Internal Audit Activity Progress Report 2021/22 at **Appendix A** summarises:
- i. The progress and final position on the Internal Audit Plan 2021/22, including the assurance opinions on the effectiveness of risk management and control processes;
  - ii. The outcomes of the delivered Internal Audit Plan 2021/22 activity; and
  - iii. Special investigations/counter fraud activity.

3.3 The report is the fifth and final progress report in relation to the Internal Audit Plan 2021/22.

3.4 The Internal Audit Progress Report 2021/22 content directly supports the Annual Report of the Head of ARA 2021/22, due to be presented to the 18<sup>th</sup> July 2022 Audit and Governance Committee.

#### **4.0 Social Value Considerations**

4.1 There are no Social Value implications as a result of the recommendations made in this report.

#### **5.0 Environmental Implications**

5.1 There are no Environmental implications as a result of the recommendations made in this report.

#### **6.0 Alternative Options Considered**

6.1 No other options have been considered. The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of the Internal Audit work undertaken to date and the assurance opinions provided. Non-completion of Internal Audit Activity Progress Reports would lead to non-compliance with the PSIAS and the Council Constitution (see report section 7.2 and 7.3).

#### **7.0 Reasons for Recommendations**

7.1 The role of the ARA Shared Service is to examine, evaluate and provide an independent, objective opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's internal control environment, comprising risk management, control and governance. Where weaknesses have been identified, recommendations have been made to improve the control environment.

7.2 The PSIAS state the Head of ARA should report on the outcomes of Internal Audit work, in sufficient detail. This is to enable the Committee to understand what assurance it can take from that work and what unresolved risks or issues it needs to address.

7.3 Consideration of reports from the Head of ARA on Internal Audit's work and performance during the year is also a requirement of the Audit and Governance Committee's terms of reference (part of the Council Constitution).

#### **8.0 Future Work and Conclusions**

8.1 Internal Audit Activity Progress Reports against the 2022/23 Risk Based Internal Audit Plan are scheduled to be presented to the Audit and Governance Committee within 2022/23. This is in accordance with the PSIAS and as reflected within the Audit and Governance Committee work programme.

8.2 The first Internal Audit Progress Report 2022/23 will be presented to the 12<sup>th</sup> September 2022 Audit and Governance Committee.

## **9.0 Financial Implications**

- 9.1 There are no Financial implications as a result of the recommendations made in this report.

Financial Services have been consulted in the preparation this report.

## **10.0 Legal Implications**

- 10.1 Monitoring the implementation of Internal Audit recommendations assists the Council to minimise risk areas and thereby reduce the prospects of legal challenge.

One Legal have been consulted in the preparation this report.

## **11.0 Risk and Opportunity Management Implications**

- 11.1 Failure to deliver an effective Internal Audit service will prevent an independent, objective assurance opinion from being provided to those charged with governance. That the key risks associated with the achievement of the Council's objectives are being adequately controlled.

## **12.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA) and Safeguarding:**

- 12.1 The Internal Audit service is delivered by ARA which is an Internal Audit and Risk Management Shared Service between Gloucester City Council, Stroud District Council and Gloucestershire County Council. Equality in service delivery is demonstrated by the team being subject to, and complying with, the Council's equality policies.

- 12.2 The PIA Screening Stage was completed and did not identify any potential or actual negative impact. A full PIA was not required.

## **13.0 Community Safety Implications**

- 13.1 There are no Community Safety implications as a result of the recommendations made in this report.

## **14.0 Staffing and Trade Union Implications**

- 14.1 There are no Staffing and Trade Union implications as a result of the recommendations made in this report.

**Background Documents:** [Internal Audit Plan 2021/22](#)  
[PSIAS](#)

CIPFA Local Government Application Note for the UK PSIAS