

South Northamptonshire Council

Audit Committee

30 July 2020

Internal Audit Update July 2020

Report of the Executive Director – Finance

This report is public

Purpose of report

To receive the CW Audit Service Update report for July 2020.

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 The meeting is recommended to note the contents of the July 2020 internal audit update report from CW Audit Services.

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 Internal Audit undertakes a programme of work each year which is produced in consultation with senior management. The plan is monitored for progress during the year and regular reports and updates are provided to the Committee.

3.0 Report Details

- 3.1 The audits for Payroll and Debtors have now been completed with levels of significant assurance. The majority of the recommendations have also been actioned bringing the total now implemented to 70, whilst 13 remaining recommendations are still to be actioned.
- 3.2 Following on from Internal Audit's review of the council's information governance function a number of recommendations were agreed for implementation. Some of these have already been implemented, such as the Information Rights Policy which was considered by the last meeting of the Scrutiny Committee: however others are outstanding.
- 3.3 The officers responsible for information governance have had reduced capacity due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, input into the Local Government Reform (LGR) programme and delays to the induction / training of a new member of staff.
- 3.4 The recommendations will be reviewed with internal audit to ensure that realistic timescales are set, to ensure that the priority areas are dealt with swiftly. In addition, with the team also working on LGR information governance matters, common areas

will be sought so as to avoid duplication and where appropriate, to use any policies / guidance produced for the LGR programme.

4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1 The progress report provides updates on the work programme for Internal Audit July 2020. This work programme will assist the Committee in gaining further assurance on the Council's internal controls.

5.0 Consultation

None

6.0 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 6.1 The following alternative options have been identified.

Option 1: Members may choose to seek additional information from CW audit services and officers.

7.0 Implications

Financial and Resource Implications

- 7.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Comments checked by:

Martin Henry, Executive Director – Finance (Section 151 Officer)

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Legal Implications

- 7.2 There are no legal implications arising directly from any outcome of this report.

Comments checked by:

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Risk Management Implications

- 7.3 There are no risk implications arising directly from any outcome of this report.

Comments checked by:

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8.0 Decision Information

Wards Affected All wards are affected

Links to Corporate Plan and Policy Framework All corporate plan themes.

Lead Councillor None

Document Information

Appendix No	Title
Appendix 1	CW Audit Services Recommendation Status and Progress Report July 2020
Background Papers	
None	
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