

Audit and Governance Committee



Date of meeting:	28 November 2022
Title of Report:	Internal Audit Half Year Report 2022/23
Lead Member:	Councillor Mark Shayer, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Economy
Lead Strategic Director:	David Northey (Interim Service Director for Finance)
Author:	Brenda Davis, Snr Assurance Manager
Contact Email:	brenda.davis@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	AUD/BD
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

This report provides Members of the Audit and Governance Committee with:

- a position statement on the audit work carried out since April 2022;
- the reviews scheduled for quarters 3 and 4;
- those areas which can be delivered as part of next year's audit plan or, are no longer required;
- the Head of Internal Audit's mid-year assurance opinion of "Reasonable Assurance" on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Authority's internal control framework.

With the rapid pace of change in local government, we continue to liaise with the management to "flex" the plan as appropriate to ensure that our work focusses on those areas which add most value to the Council in these challenging times. This risk-based approach has resulted in changes to the audit plan with new areas being included which in turn necessitates some areas being deferred to next year.

Recommendations and Reasons

The Audit and Governance Committee are required to:

- Review and note the findings within the report,
- Review and note the Head of Audit mid-year assurance opinion, and
- Review and approve the in-year changes to the audit plan.

Alternative options considered and rejected

None, as failure to maintain an adequate and effective system of internal audit would contravene the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

The internal audit service assists the Council in delivering robust standards of public accountability and probity in the use of public funds and has a role in promoting high standards of service planning, performance monitoring and review throughout the organisation, together with ensuring compliance with the Council's statutory obligations.

Our work supports delivery of the values and priorities set out in Corporate Plan by ensuring that resources are used wisely, and service areas meet the needs of residents, businesses and communities through the delivery of quality public services.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

Delivery of the audit plan assists the council in delivering value for money services and has helped ensure an effective control environment as the Council.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

None

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

** When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.*

The work of the internal audit service is an intrinsic element of the Council's overall corporate governance, risk management and internal control framework.

Appendices

**Add rows as required to box below*

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	DAP Half Year Report 2022/23							

Sign off:

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: David Northey, Interim Service Director for Finance											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Date agreed: 19/10/2022											
Cabinet Member approval: Cllr Mark Shayer											
Date approved: 15/11/2021											