

Audit and Governance Committee



Date of meeting:	16 September 2025
Title of Report:	Internal Audit Progress Report 2025/26
Lead Member:	Councillor Mark Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance)
Lead Strategic Director:	Ian Trisk-Grove (Service Director for Finance)
Author:	Louise Clapton, Audit Manager
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Your Reference:	AUD/LC
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

This report presents two separate internal audit updates, providing Members of the Audit and Governance Committee with a position statement on the audit work carried out since April 2025:

- Appendix A – Internal Audit Progress Report: Provides a summary of performance against the 2025/26 Internal Audit Plan up to 30th June 2025, including the status of audit assignments, assurance opinions issued, and any changes to planned work.
- Appendix B – Management Action Tracking Update (Q1 2025/26): Details progress made in implementing management actions arising from audit recommendations, with a focus on Limited Assurance audits and overdue actions as of 30th June 2025.

Together, these documents support the Committee's oversight of internal audit delivery and the effectiveness of management responses to audit findings.

The work of Internal Audit delivers objective and relevant assurance and contributes to the effectiveness and efficiency of the governance, risk management and internal control processes. We liaise closely with management to identify changes in processes and procedures and new areas of expenditure. This risk-based approach can result in some items in the audit plan being replaced with new, higher risk areas to ensure that audit resources remain focussed on the most important areas, any changes will be highlighted within our reports to Audit and Governance Committee.

Recommendations and Reasons

- I. Note the findings presented in the two accompanying internal audit reports:
 - Appendix A – Internal Audit Progress Report: Summarises delivery against the 2025/26 Internal Audit Plan to 30th June 2025, including assurance opinions and any changes to planned work.
 - Appendix B – Management Action Tracking Update (Q1 2025/26): Provides oversight of progress made in implementing agreed management actions arising from internal audit recommendations, with a focus on Limited Assurance audits and overdue actions.

In doing so, the Committee is invited to reflect on its core responsibilities as set out in the CIPFA guidance, specifically, to:

- Seek assurance that internal audit work is appropriately focused on current risks and priorities.
 - Scrutinise the adequacy and timeliness of management responses to audit findings.
 - Promote accountability and continuous improvement in governance, risk management, and internal control arrangements.
2. Audit and Governance Committee has a clear mandate to seek assurance on the implementation of management actions arising from audit recommendations. To effectively discharge this responsibility, the Committee can request the attendance of relevant officers to provide updates and respond to queries regarding progress on agreed action plans. Direct engagement with officers enables members to scrutinise the adequacy and timeliness of responses to audit findings, ensuring that governance, risk, and control arrangements are robust and effective, whilst promoting transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement.

Alternative options considered and rejected

1. 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.

The implementation of all agreed management actions to address audit recommendations are fundamentally linked to delivering the priorities within the Council's Corporate Plan and assists with ensuring limited resources are allocated to priorities which will maximise the benefits to the residents of Plymouth.

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 the provision of quality public services which also demonstrate value for money. It has also helped ensure an effective control environment is maintained in these financially challenging times.

Financial Risks

Failure to mitigate risks highlighted by Internal Audit through implementation of agreed management action may have financial consequences.

Legal Implications

(Provided by Liz Bryant)

The Council must have a sound system of internal control which facilitates the effective exercise of its functions, including effective assurance and risk management. This report provides information on the work of the Council's internal audit service in ensuring compliance.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

No impacts directly arising from this report.

** 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.*

Appendices

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 Internal Audit Progress Report 2025/26							
B	Internal Audit Management Action Update Q1 2025/26							

**Add rows as required to box below*

Title of any background paper(s)	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

Fin	OW. 25.26. 076	Leg	LS/00 0036 09/44 /LB/2 9/08/ 25	Mon Off	N/A	HR	N/A	Assets	N/A	Strat Proc	N/A
<p>Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Ian Trisk-Grove, Service Director for Finance</p> <p>Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes</p> <p>Date agreed: 16/08/2025</p> <p>Cabinet Member approval: Cllr Lowry, via email.</p> <p>Date approved: 26/08/2025</p>											