

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

Subject: Internal Audit - Annual Audit Report 2015/16
Committee: Audit Committee
Date: 30 June 2016
Cabinet Member: Councillor Darcy
CMT Member: Lesa Annear (Strategic Director for Transformation & Change)
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Ref: AUD/RH
Key Decision: No
Part: I

Purpose of the report:

This report summarises the work undertaken by Devon Audit Partnership during 2015/16, reviews the performance and effectiveness of the Internal Audit service, and provides an audit opinion on the adequacy of internal control. Our work has provided objective and relevant assurance and contributed to the effectiveness and efficiency of the governance, risk management and internal control processes.

This year's reviews have made recommendation on and agreed management action for improvement in many areas to improve services to the people of Plymouth, key ones of which include:

- redress for overpayments to domiciliary care providers which did not reflect actual provision;
- support for the project to improve customer engagement (Firmstep Digital Platform);
- effective governance arrangements of the Integrated Health and Wellbeing Board where we highlighted the need to review existing Board structures to better achieve goals and aims;
- weaknesses in understanding the realisation of outcomes and their benefits, resource and financial management for delivery of Integrated Transport transformation
- the Retained Client function report on the need for adequate levels of resourcing when managing contracts inc Delt.
- performance information on public health screening to improve service effectiveness

Our Annual report is particularly relevant, therefore, to the preparation of the Authority's Annual Governance Statement which is required under the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulation 2015.

In review of our Annual report the Audit Committee are required to consider the assurance provided alongside that of the Executive, Corporate Risk Management and external assurance including that of the External Auditor as part of the Governance Framework (see appendix A1) and satisfy themselves from this assurance for signing the Annual Governance Statement.

The Co-operative Council Corporate Plan 2013/14 -2016/17:

The work of the Internal Audit Service assists the Council in maintaining high standards of public accountability and probity in the use of public funds. The service 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 delivery of the Internal Audit Plan assists all directorates in delivering outcomes from the Corporate Plan:-

- Pioneering Plymouth – by ensuring that resources are used wisely and that services delivered meet or exceed customer expectations;
- Confident Plymouth - the Government and other agencies have confidence in the Council and partners.

**Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:
Including finance, human, IT and land:**

None.

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

The work of the Internal Audit Service is an intrinsic element of the Council’s overall corporate governance, risk management and internal control framework.

Equality and Diversity:

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been undertaken? No

Recommendations and Reasons for recommended action:

It is recommended that Members consider the following when signing the Annual Governance Statement:

- the assurance statement within this report;
- the basis of our opinion and the completion of audit work against the plan;
- the scope and ability of audit to complete the audit work;
- audit coverage and findings provided.

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 2003, 2006, 2011 & 2015.

Published work / information:

Internal Audit Annual Plan 2015/16.

Background papers:

None

Sign off:

Fin MC		Leg		Mon Off		HR		Assets		IT		Strat Proc	
Originating SMT Member:													
Has the Cabinet Member(s) agreed the content of the report? Yes													