

## PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

**Subject:** Internal Audit – Annual Report  
**Committee:** Audit Committee  
**Date:** 29 June 2017  
**Cabinet Member:** Councillor Darcy  
**CMT Member:** Andrew Hardingham (Interim Joint Strategic Director  
Transformation & Change)  
**Author:** Robert Hutchins, Head of Devon Audit Partnership  
**Contact details:** Tel: 01752 306710  
**Ref:** AUD/RH  
**Key Decision:** No  
**Part:** 1

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### **Purpose of the report:**

This report summarises the work undertaken by Devon Audit Partnership during 2016/17, 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.

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

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### **The Corporate Plan 2016 - 19:**

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.
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### **Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:**

**Including finance, human, IT and land:**

None.

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### **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.

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**Equality and Diversity:**

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been undertaken? Not required.

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**Recommendations and Reasons for recommended action:**

It is recommended that:-

1. The Audit Committee note that overall and based on work performed during 2016/17, and that of our experience from previous year's audit, the Head of Internal Audit's Opinion is of "Significant Assurance" on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Authority's internal control framework.
  2. Members note the performance and achievements of the Internal Audit Team during 2016/17.
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**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.

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**Published work / information:**

Internal Audit Annual Plan 2016/17 – March 2016

**Background papers:**

None

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**Sign off:**

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Originating SMT Member: Andrew Hardingham, Interim Joint Strategic Director Transformation & Change													
Has the Cabinet Member(s) agreed the content of the report?													