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| Date of meeting: | 22 July 2019 |
| Title of Report: | Internal Audit Annual Report |
| Lead Member: | Councillor Mark Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance) |
| Lead Strategic Director: | Andrew Hardingham (Service Director for Finance) |
| Author: | Brenda Davis, Audit Manager |
| Contact Email: | brenda.davis@plymouth.gov.uk |
| Your Reference: | AUD/BD |
| Key Decision: | No |
| Confidentiality: | Part I - Official |

Purpose of Report

This report summarises the work undertaken by Devon Audit Partnership during 2018/19, reviews the performance and effectiveness of the Internal Audit service, and provides an audit opinion on the adequacy of the Authority's internal control environment. Our work delivers objective and relevant assurance and contributes to the effectiveness and efficiency of the governance, risk management and internal control processes.

A key element of the Council's governance arrangements is the Annual Governance Statement (AGS), signed by the Leader, Chief Executive and Services Director for Finance (S.151 Officer). The assurance opinions derived from the work by Internal Audit are used to help inform the AGS.

Recommendations and Reasons

The Audit and Governance Committee note that:

- Based on work performed during 2018/19 and previous years' audit, the Head of Internal Audit's opinion is of "Substantial Assurance" on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Authority's internal control framework.

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 understand and deliver quality public services which meet customer and community needs and keep people safe.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

Delivery of the audit plan will assist the council in delivering value for money services.

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> | | | | | | |
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| A | 2018/19 Internal Audit Annual Report | | | | | | | |
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Background papers:

*Add rows as required to box below

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

| 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> | | | | | | |
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Sign off:

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| Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Andrew Hardingham | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes Date agreed: 05/07/2019 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Mark Lowry, approved by email Date approved: 09/07/2019 | | | | | | | | | | | |