

AGENDA NO.

**REPORT TO
AUDIT COMMITTEE**

23 SEPTEMBER 2019

**REPORT OF
DIRECTOR OF
FINANCE &
BUSINESS SERVICES**

INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT

SUMMARY

This report provides members with an update of the work carried out by the Internal Audit Section and the progress made against the Audit Plan 2019/20.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:-

1. The current position as identified in the attached update report is noted.

DETAIL

Background

1. Internal Audit is an independent appraisal function established by the Council to objectively examine, evaluate and report on the adequacy of internal controls. This role ensures that there is proper economic, efficient and effective use of resources. It also ensures that the Council has adequate accounting records and control systems.
2. Committee Members are reminded that the list of audit assignments undertaken in the current year to date has been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. The intention is to give Councillors the opportunity to raise questions on issues that affect their ward or other areas of responsibility and for answers to be provided at the meeting.

Current Position

3. The attached update report shows the current position in respect of the progress against the 2019/20 audit plan and the results of the work that has been undertaken.
4. Members may recall an updated approach which included setting up a system of continuous audit. Significant progress continues to be made towards this

with testing now being automated on a monthly basis in a number of areas. Because testing is undertaken continuously there will be a number of audits shown as on-going that will be finalised at the year end.

5. Since the last meeting an auditor has resigned and left for a new role in another authority. The plan will be carefully monitored but at the present moment there are no plans to cancel any audits.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None

RISK ASSESSMENT

The results of the work undertaken by Internal Audit can be used by managers to assess their risk exposure, recommendations are made where there is perceived to be unacceptable risk.

COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

None

CONSULTATION

N/A

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Background Papers:

Internal Audit Charter
Audit Plan 2019/2020
Counter Fraud Strategy

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

None

Property Implications:

None

INTERNAL AUDIT AUDIT COMMITTEE UPDATE REPORT 2019/20

1 AUDIT PROGRESS

- 1.1** The plan, approved on 25 February 2019, was based on an audit assessment of risk which uses a number of factors to determine the likelihood of issues occurring including an understanding of the full scope of systems in operation, major change, concerns/external interest and results of previous audit work. It then assesses the impact any issues may have on the council's strategic objectives, reputation, financial plans, assets and also the potential impact on individuals and/or the environment.

Audit Progress by Service Group (as at 1 September 2019)

Department	Planned Audits	Cancelled Audits	Unplanned Audits	Revised Audits	Completed	In Progress	Under Review	Drafts Issued	Not Started	Ready to Start
Corporate	13	0	1	14	1	3	0	0	10	0
Finance & Business Services	7	0	0	7	0	1	0	2	4	0
Adults & Health	7	0	0	7	0	1	1	2	2	1
Children's Services	12	0	0	12	0	2	0	1	7	2
Xentrall	11	0	0	11	0	6	0	0	5	0
HR, Legal & Communications	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	0
Community Services	4	0	0	4	0	2	0	0	2	0
Culture, Leisure & Events	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Economic Growth & Development	4	0	0	4	0	2	0	1	1	0
Democratic & Licensing	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Schools	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Contingency	7	0	0	7	0	7	0	0	0	0
DBC Only	6	0	0	6	0	1	2	1	2	0
Totals	77	0	1	78	1	27	3	7	36	4

- 1.2** The Audit Plan is constantly revised during the year to take account of changing requirements. Amendments to the Plan agreed on 25 February 2019 can be summarised as follows:

2019/20 Planned Audits Amalgamated/Cancelled/Deferred

None

2019/20 Unplanned Audits Added to the Plan

Globe Restoration Project

1.3 Counter Fraud

The action plan associated with the strategy presented in February 2018 continues to be implemented. Revised intranet and internet pages are now available with articles appearing in KYIT to raise awareness. The pages contain training videos and links providing advice and guidance on emerging issues such as bank mandate fraud.

The latest round of the National Fraud Initiative data matching exercise is due to be submitted in December 2018, arrangements are in place to provide this data. The results have now been received and follow-up will begin on the matches.

2 AUDIT OUTPUT

Engagement Opinions

2.1 For each audit carried out Internal Audit provides an overall conclusion as to whether a sound system of internal control is being maintained. Each opinion is either “Full”, “Substantial”, “Moderate”, “Limited”, or “No” assurance depending on the conclusions reached and the evidence to support those conclusions. “Full” and “substantial” assurance normally indicates that the area under review has a reliable system of internal control.

2.2 These individual opinions are summarised below:-

Opinion	Definition	No.	%
Full Assurance	A sound system of internal controls is currently being applied which will ensure the system achieves its objectives. Whilst not essential there may still be scope for these controls to be enhanced in some areas.	0	0
Substantial Assurance	Overall there is a sound system of internal controls that are operating effectively. The system should achieve its objectives but there are areas where internal controls need to be improved.	1	100
Moderate Assurance	A reasonably sound system of internal controls is being applied, however, there are weaknesses which may put some of the system objectives at risk.	0	0
Limited Assurance	There is either a limited system of internal controls being applied, or there are significant weaknesses in the controls in place, which are posing a substantial risk to the achievement of system objectives.	0	0
No Assurance	The system of internal controls in place is failing and system objectives are not being met. Urgent management attention is required.	0	0
N/A	This classification covers audit work within a small part of a system. Providing an opinion on this work would misrepresent the system as a whole.	0	0
Total		1	

2.3 An analysis of the recommendations supporting these opinions by priority is shown below:-

Priority	Definition	No.	%
Critical	Actions that must be taken immediately to manage significant risks that are likely to prevent the Authority achieving one or more of its corporate objectives.	2	50
High	Actions that should be taken as a matter of priority due to the issues identified posing a substantial risk to the achievement of service/system objectives.	2	50
Medium	Required actions to reduce the risk of systems failing to achieve their objectives.	0	0
Low	Beneficial to the improvement of internal controls, which will support the achievement of objectives.	0	0
Total		4	

Details of Audits by Service Group**2019/20**

Department	No. of Audits Issued	Opinions							No. of Recs Made	Previous Recommendations			
		Full	Sub	Mod	Lim	None	N/A	Tested		Passed	Failed	N/A	
Corporate	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0
Finance & Business Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adults & Health	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Children's Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Xentrall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HR, Legal & Communications	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Community Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Culture, Leisure & Events	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Economic Growth & Development	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Democratic & Licensing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Schools	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Contingency	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DBC Only	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0

2018/19

Department	No. of Audits Issued	Opinions							No. of Recs Made	Previous Recommendations			
		Full	Sub	Mod	Lim	None	N/A	Tested		Passed	Failed	N/A	
Corporate	10	4	5	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	1	2	
Finance & Business Services	7	5	2	0	0	0	0	6	3	1	0	2	
Adults & Health	7	3	4	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	
Children's Services	7	2	4	1	0	0	0	3	10	4	0	6	
Xentrall	16	13	2	0	0	0	1	3	1	0	1	0	
HR, Legal & Communications	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	
Community Services	5	0	5	0	0	0	0	25	18	10	4	4	
Culture, Leisure & Events	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	
Economic Growth & Development	8	4	3	0	0	0	1	6	9	6	3	0	
Democratic & Licensing	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	
Schools	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
Contingency	8	1	1	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	
DBC Only	7	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	
TVCA Only	3	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	3	0	0	
Total	84	35	30	1	0	0	18	57	48	24	9	15	

2.4 Shown below is a list of all the audit engagements undertaken during the year together with their assurance opinion.

2019/20 Audit Plan Current Position as at 1 September 2019

Department	Audit ID	Name	Status	Assurance	Recommendations						Final Var
					L	M	H	C	Bud	Rem	15.1216
Corporate	2606	Absence Management	Not Started						10.0	9.5	
Xentrall	2607	Active Directory	In Progress						6.0	4.8	
Economic Growth & Development	2610	Building Control	In Progress						7.0	6.8	
Xentrall	2611	Cloud Computing	Not Started						5.0	5.2	
Finance & Business Services	2612	Asset Register/Asset Management	Not Started						7.0	7.5	
Children's Services	2615	Child Placement - Adoption	Not Started						7.0	0.0	
Xentrall	2617	Creditors	In Progress						20.0	19.8	
Adults & Health	2620	Client Financial Services	Draft						12.0	9.4	
Finance & Business Services	2621	Complaints Review	Not Started						9.0	9.3	
Community Services	2622	Community Transport	Not Started						7.0	7.4	
Xentrall	2623	Change Control	Not Started						6.0	5.4	
Finance & Business Services	2632	Housing Benefits	Not Started						18.0	17.9	
Xentrall	2634	Debtors	In Progress						16.0	12.2	
HR, Legal & Communications	2642	Land Charges	Not Started						6.0	6.4	
Children's Services	2646	Leaving Care	In Progress						7.0	0.0	
Children's Services	2648	First Contact	Not Started						3.0	2.5	
Corporate	2653	DBS Procedures	Not Started						6.0	1.0	
Economic Growth & Development	2654	Development Services	Not Started						9.4	9.8	
Children's Services	2656	Early Years & Complex Needs	Not Started						8.0	9.1	

Xentrall	2657	Virtualisation	In Progress					6.0	4.7	
Adults & Health	2658	Emergency Duty Team	In Progress					3.0	3.1	
Children's Services	2659	Looked After Children	Not Started					12.0	11.6	
Corporate	2660	Officer Payments - Mileage	In Progress					8.0	6.5	
Finance & Business Services	2664	Treasury Management	Draft					7.0	0.4	
Finance & Business Services	2665	VAT	In Progress					6.0	6.1	
Finance & Business Services	2666	Taxation	Not Started					12.0	12.0	
Corporate	2667	Recruitment Services	Not Started					6.0	6.1	
Xentrall	2668	Server Operating Systems	Not Started					5.0	5.2	
Adults & Health	2670	Personal Budgets & Direct Payments	Under Review					7.0	3.1	
Xentrall	2672	Firewalls	In Progress					6.0	6.2	
Adults & Health	2673	Referral & Assessment - Adults	Not Started					12.0	9.3	
Xentrall	2674	Payroll & Absence Recording	In Progress					26.0	25.4	
Adults & Health	2676	Environmental Health	Draft					6.0	1.6	
Community Services	2677	Enforcement	In Progress					7.0	6.6	
Children's Services	2679	Youth Offending and Prevention	Not Started					8.0	8.0	
Children's Services	2680	Early Years, Children's Centres & Childcare	Not Started					8.0	6.5	
Corporate	2700	Declaration of Interests/Gifts & Hospitality	Not Started					0.0	0.0	
Culture, Leisure & Events	2701	Adult Education	In Progress					15.0	0.0	
Xentrall	2702	Bank Reconciliation	Not Started					12.0	12.0	
< None >	2703	Catering & Cleaning	In Progress					20.0	0.0	
Children's Services	2704	Residential Childrens Homes	Ready to Start					10.0	0.0	
Corporate	2705	Data Protection	Not Started					10.0	10.0	
Adults & Health	2706	Day Centres, Residential & Supported Living	Not Started					30.0	28.7	
DBC Only	2707	Eastbourne Sports Complex	Draft					5.0	0.0	
Children's Services	2708	Education Improvement Service	Ready to					15.0	12.0	

			Start							
HR, Legal & Communications	2709	Employee Benefits	Not Started						10.0	8.6
HR, Legal & Communications	2710	Employee Therapy Services	Not Started						7.0	6.7
Adults & Health	2711	Fuel Poverty Reduction	Ready to Start						7.0	3.5
Economic Growth & Development	2712	Highways Maintenance Management	In Progress						10.0	9.8
Community Services	2713	Horticultural Services & Allotments	In Progress						15.0	10.2
DBC Only	2714	Housing Building Maintenance	Under Review						25.0	1.5
DBC Only	2715	Housing Management	Not Started						20.0	19.7
DBC Only	2716	Housing Rents	Not Started						15.0	15.0
Democratic & Licensing	2717	Licensing	Ready to Start						30.0	16.5
Corporate	2718	Information Management	Not Started						10.0	10.0
DBC Only	2719	Mayor's Charity Fund	Under Review						2.0	0.5
Corporate	2720	Performance Management Framework	Not Started						15.0	15.0
Corporate	2721	Anti-Fraud Management	In Progress						35.0	35.0
Corporate	2722	Business Continuity & Emergency Planning	Not Started						10.0	10.0
Corporate	2723	Council Plans	Not Started						5.0	5.0
Corporate	2724	Financial Management	In Progress						5.0	5.0
Community Services	2725	Registration & Bereavement Services	Not Started						15.0	6.4
Children's Services	2726	Safeguarding Children	Not Started						15.0	10.3
Corporate	2727	Scheme of Delegation	Not Started						15.0	15.0
Xentrall	2728	Software Controls	Not Started						10.0	6.8
Finance & Business Services	2729	Stockton Collections	Draft						5.0	0.0
Children's Services	2730	Tees Valley Music Service	Draft						10.0	0.0
Economic Growth & Development	2731	Traffic Management & Road Safety	Draft						15.0	0.0

Children's Services	2732	Troubled Families Initiative	In Progress						20.0	10.2	
Contingency	2733	Advice and Guidance	In Progress						50.0	43.6	
Contingency	2734	Audit Liaison and Planning	In Progress						20.0	6.7	
Contingency	2736	Continuous Monitoring	In Progress						200.0	121.9	
Contingency	2737	Grants Contingency 2019	In Progress						30.0	19.4	
Schools	2738	SBC Schools - IR35 Self Assessment	In Progress						0.0	0.0	
DBC Only	2739	DBC Schools - IR35 Self Assessment	In Progress						0.0	0.0	
	2740	Schools	Not Started						0.0	0.0	
Corporate	2741	Globe Project Assurance	Complete	Substantial Assurance	0	0	2	2	0.0		-15.1
Contingency	2742	Risk Management	In Progress						35.0	32.1	
Contingency	2743	Procurement/Contract Management	In Progress						62.0	61.3	
Contingency	2744	ICT Individual Systems	In Progress						66.0	54.2	

2.5 Trend Analysis

