

Audit Committee – 24 January 2025

Internal Audit Progress Report 2024-25 (December 2024)

Purpose	For information
Classification	Public
Executive Summary	<p>In accordance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and the Council’s Internal Audit Charter, the Chief Internal Auditor is required to provide a written status report to the Audit Committee.</p> <p>The Internal Audit Progress Report, attached as Appendix 1, summarises the performance of Internal Audit for 2024-25 to 31st December 2024. The report provides:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a summary of the Council’s progress with implementing management actions agreed from previous audits within the analysis of ‘live’ audit reviews;• executive summaries of reports published which concluded with a ‘Limited’ or ‘No’ assurance opinion as part of the 2024-25 audit work;• a summary of planning and resourcing issues, including proposed changes to the audit plan; and• internal audit’s progress with delivering the agreed plan together with a performance dashboard.
Recommendation(s)	The Audit Committee are requested to note the Internal Audit Progress Report 2024-25 (December 2024).
Reasons for recommendation(s)	To keep the Audit Committee apprised of internal audit’s progress with delivering the agreed plan, together with summaries of significant issues identified, and the Council’s progress with implementing agreed actions.
Ward(s)	All Wards

Portfolio Holder(s)	Councillor Jeremy Heron – Finance and Corporate
Strategic Director(s)	Alan Bethune, Strategic Director of Corporate Resources and Transformation. S151 Officer
Officer Contact	Antony Harvey Deputy Head of Southern Internal Audit Partnership 07784 265289 antony.harvey@hants.gov.uk

Introduction and background

1. Under the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015, the Council is responsible for:
 - ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control which facilitates the effective exercise of functions and includes arrangements for the management of risk; and
 - undertaking an adequate and effective internal audit of its accounting records and of its system of internal control in accordance with the proper practices in relation to internal control.
2. In accordance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and the Council’s Internal Audit Charter, the Chief Internal Auditor is required to provide a written status report to the Audit Committee, summarising:

‘communications on the internal audit activity’s performance relative to its’ plan.’
3. The progress report, attached as Appendix 1, summarises the performance of Internal Audit for 2024-25 to 31st December 2024.

Corporate plan priorities

4. The Council is responsible for establishing and maintaining appropriate risk management processes, control systems, accounting records and governance arrangements. Internal audit plays a vital role in advising the Council that these arrangements are in place and operating effectively. The Council’s response to internal audit activity should lead to the strengthening of the control

environment and, therefore, contribute to the achievement of the organisation's objectives.

Options appraisal

5. No alternative options have been considered as this report is a requirement under relevant legislation and standards.

Consultation undertaken

6. This report has been discussed with the Executive Management Team.

Financial and resource implications

7. The audit plan consists of 400 audit days including 18 audit days provided to the New Forest National Park Authority under the current Service Level Agreement. The Council's budget for 2024-25 reflects these arrangements.

Legal implications

8. There are no additional implications arising from this report.

Risk assessment

9. No formal risk assessment is required.

Environmental / Climate and nature implications

10. There are no additional implications arising from this report.

Equalities implications

11. There are no additional implications arising from this report.

Crime and disorder implications

12. There are no additional implications arising from this report.

Data protection / Information governance / ICT implications

13. There are no additional implications arising from this report.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Internal Audit
Progress Report 2024-25
(December 24)

Background Papers:

Internal Audit Plan 2024-25