

Internal Audit Progress Report

To: Audit & Accounts Committee

Meeting Date: 30th July 2024

From: Mairead Claydon, Head of Internal Audit & Risk Management

Executive Summary: The purpose of the report is to provide an update to Audit & Accounts Committee on the main areas of internal audit coverage for the period to 30th June 2024.

Recommendation: The Committee is requested to consider and comment on the contents of this report.

Officer contact:

Name: Mairead Claydon
Post: Head of Internal Audit & Risk Management
Email: Mairead.claydon@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

1. Background

- 1.1 The role of Internal Audit is to provide the Audit & Accounts Committee and Management independent assurance on the effectiveness of the controls in place to ensure that the Council's objectives are achieved. Internal Audit coverage is planned so that the focus is upon those areas and risks which will most impact upon the Council's ability to achieve these objectives.
- 1.2 The annual Audit Plan is split out into two elements: the 'core' plan, comprising key areas of assurance that are reviewed every year and audit support work (e.g. to working parties or panels) which is ongoing throughout the year; and the 'flexible' plan, i.e. the areas of audit coverage that vary from year to year, with planned coverage based on a risk assessment process.

2. Main Issues

Please see the full Internal Audit Progress Report provided at Appendix 1 to this report.

2.1 OUTSTANDING AUDIT ACTIONS

- 2.1.1 Annex B details 75 outstanding audit agreed actions as at 30th June 2024. This includes 3 outstanding 'essential' actions which have newly become overdue for implementation; two of these relate to the Dedicated Schools Grant Safety Valve audit and one to the Schools Capital Programme audit.
- 2.1.2 Narrative updates on actions where the current target date is after 30th June have not been followed-up by Internal Audit in this reporting cycle and will be reported in the next Progress Report.
- 2.1.3 As set out at Section 7.3 of the report, two actions have also been downgraded by Internal Audit to 'advisory' recommendations no longer requiring further audit follow-up.
- 2.1.4 See Section 7 of the report for more details.

2.2 INVESTIGATIONS CASELOAD

- 2.2.1 Section 9 of the Progress Report summarises the open whistleblowing cases currently under review by the Internal Audit Team, as well as updates on other counter-fraud work including the launch of new anti-money laundering training and the National Fraud Initiative.
- 2.2.2 New Whistleblowing & Anti-Fraud eLearning has been drafted by the team and developed by colleagues in Learning & Development and is currently at 'testing' stage. The intention is to launch this training to CCC staff in late summer/early autumn.

2.3 KEY FINANCIAL SYSTEMS

- 2.3.1 Section 10 of the Progress Report provides an update on the progress with Key Financial

Systems reviews.

3. Significant Implications

3.1 This report is an information-only update and there are no significant implications to highlight.

4. Source Documents

4.1 None