

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	<b>AUDIT COMMITTEE</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>ANNUAL INTERNAL AUDIT OPINION 2023-24</b>
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	<b>29<sup>th</sup> JULY 2024</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>CHIEF INTERNAL AUDITOR</b>

<b><u>CONTACT DETAILS</u></b>			
<b>Executive Director</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>ENABLING SERVICES</b>	
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<b>STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY</b>
N/A
<b>BRIEF SUMMARY</b>
<p>On an annual basis and in accordance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards the Chief Internal Auditor is required to provide an opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's framework of risk management, internal control and governance.</p> <p>An update is also provided within the report of the Internal audit work carried out since the last reporting period.</p> <p>For the financial year 2023-24 Internal Audit &amp; Counter Fraud completed 26 full audits, 28 follow ups, 6 pieces of work on management request, 2 consultancy reports and 4 grant reviews. The results identified one 'No Assurance' audited area, which is shared within this report.</p> <p>In addition, for the year there is, a combined 46% of results rated as 'no assurance' or 'limited assurance' and 54% rated as 'reasonable assurance' or 'assurance' (full audits). Compared with the previous year's results (2022-23) which was 42% and 58% respectively, showing a decline in the level of reasonable or full assurance attributed across work performed.</p> <p>The opinion is informed and influenced by all several factors, including audit results, the vulnerability of the governance framework and the associated emerging risks, financial instability together with the required pace and implications of the actions to address it, which means that an opinion of 'limited assurance' is provided for 2023-24.</p> <p>The full details on the annual opinion for 2023/24 can be found in Appendix A.</p>

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS:</b>	
	(i) That the Audit Committee notes the Chief Internal Auditor's Annual Audit Opinion for 2023-24.
<b>REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
1.	In accordance with proper internal audit practices (Public Sector Internal Audit Standards) and the Internal Audit Charter, the Audit Committee is required to receive the Chief Internal Auditor's Annual Report & Opinion for 2023-24.
<b>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED</b>	
	None
<b>DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)</b>	
	The opinion has been shared with members of the Management Board including the S151 officer as well as the Monitoring Officer.
<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b><u>Capital/Revenue</u></b>	
	None
<b><u>Property/Other</u></b>	
	None
<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	
<b><u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u></b>	
	The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 state 'a relevant body must undertake an effective internal audit to evaluate the effectiveness of its risk management, control and governance processes, taking into account the Public Sector Internal Auditing Standards.
<b><u>Other Legal Implications:</u></b>	
	None
<b>RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS</b>	
	Failure to maintain an effective internal audit functions would result in a failure of the organisation meeting its statutory responsibilities in relation to the Annual Governance Statement and Annual Audit Opinion.
<b>POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS</b>	
	None
<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	None
<b><u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u></b>	
<b>Appendices</b>	
1.	Annual Internal Audit Opinion for 2023-24

**Documents In Members' Rooms**

1.	None
<b>Equality Impact Assessment</b>	
<b>Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out.</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>	
<b>Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out.</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Other Background Documents</b>	
<b>Other Background documents available for inspection at: N/A</b>	
<b>Title of Background Paper(s): N/A</b>	<b>Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)</b>