



REPORT TO: AUDIT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ON 1 SEPTEMBER 2021

SUBJECT: WORK OF THE INTERNAL AUDIT SECTION – UPDATE

BY: DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE (EDUCATION, COMMUNITIES AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT)

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The report provides Committee with an update on the work of the Internal Audit Section.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III I (2) and (7) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating to consideration of reports from the council's Internal Auditor and monitoring delivery of the audit service carried out by internal audit.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **Committee is asked to consider and note the contents of the report.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Public Sector Internal Audit Standards require the internal audit manager to prepare and present reports to committee on internal audit's activity, performance relative to its audit plan and on any other relevant matters.
- 3.2 This report provides an update on audit activity and projects progressed since the last meeting. Challenges associated with the pandemic still remain resulting in significant changes within current working practices that make the audit process challenging, and uncertainty still remains regarding these arrangements in the period ahead. All audit staff are still working from home, which brings some limitations to the audit process.

Departmental Systems – Self Directed Support (SDS) MIJB

- 3.3 An audit is currently ongoing regarding the financial monitoring arrangements within the SDS Team for direct payments made to service users. The audit will check for effective arrangements in the monitoring of funds issued to service users. A check will also be made to ensure that monies awarded and expenditure incurred by service users correspond to their support plan.

Departmental Systems - Social Media

- 3.4 An audit has been undertaken of the Council's arrangements on the use of social media. Social media refers to websites and applications e.g. Facebook and Twitter that are designed to allow people to share content quickly, efficiently, and in real-time. The audit reviewed the Council's guidelines and procedures on the use of social media. Testing has also been undertaken to establish how officers are authorised to communicate information through social media and monitoring arrangements of postings. The audit report has been prepared and a response requested to the recommendations.

Self-Directed Support Framework of Standards- Joint working arrangements with Social Work Scotland

- 3.5 It was noted that recently the Council has been successful in a joint working arrangement with Social Work Scotland to assist in the implementation of the new self directed support standards. The standards are intended to promote a greater flexibility and autonomy in meeting service users support needs. Implementation of these new standards may therefore require a review of current arrangements regarding authorisation, monitoring and reporting of expenditure in the near future.

Staffing

- 3.6 Currently the Internal Audit Section has two staff vacancies including the post of the Internal Audit Manager. A recruitment process has started to ensure the staffing establishment for internal audit remains fit for purpose going forward. However, until this is completed and all posts filled, there is a risk the service may have insufficient capacity to meet the requirements placed upon it by the internal auditing standards.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))

Internal audit work supports good governance and the delivery of efficient services.

(b) Policy and Legal

No implications directly arising from this report.

(c) Financial Implications

No implications directly arising from this report.

(d) Risk Implications

The independent review of selected systems and procedures mitigates the risk associated with inadequate or ineffective control procedures.

(e) Staffing Implications

A number of staffing issues within Internal Audit are being addressed as outlined in this report.

(f) Property

No implications directly arising from this report.

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

No implications directly arising from this report

(h) Consultations

There have been no direct consultations during the preparation of this report.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 Internal Audit continues to work under the limitations of the pandemic and this report provides committee with an update on internal audit work progressed in the latest review period.

Author of Report:	Dafydd Lewis	Senior Auditor
Background Papers:	Internal Audit files	
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