



AUDIT COMMITTEE

30TH JUNE 2015

AGENDA ITEM (8)

ANNUAL INTERNAL AUDIT OPINION 2014/15

Accountable Members	Audit Committee
Accountable Officer	Robert Milford Head of Internal Audit 01285 623350 robert.milford@cotswold.gov.uk

Purpose of Report	To present a summary of the work undertaken by Internal Audit during 2014/15, and to give an overall opinion on levels of assurance resulting from such work.
Recommendation	That the Committee considers the report and makes comments on its contents as appropriate.
Reason(s) for Recommendation(s)	In accordance with Public Sector Internal Audit Standards, the Head of Internal Audit is required to provide an annual opinion, based upon, and limited to, the work performed on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the organisation's control arrangements. This is achieved through a risk-based programme of activities, agreed with management and approved, for 2014/15, by the former Audit and Scrutiny Committee, which should provide a level of assurance across a range of Council activities. The opinion does not imply that the internal audit service has reviewed all risks and controls relating to the Council or the systems it reviews.

Ward(s) Affected	N/A
Key Decision	No
Recommendation to Council	No

Financial Implications	As detailed within the report at Appendix A
Legal and Human Rights Implications	As detailed within the report at Appendix A
Environmental and Sustainability Implications	N/A
Human Resource Implications	N/A

Key Risks	As detailed in the report at Appendix A
Equalities Impact Assessment	Not Required
Related Decisions	Various - throughout 2014/15 the former Audit and Scrutiny Committee received monitoring reports from internal audit detailing summaries of internal audit activity.
Background Documents	N/A
Appendices	Appendix 'A' - Annual Audit Opinion 2014/15
Performance Management Follow Up	The Internal Audit service is monitored by the S151 Officer.

Background

1. The report outlines how the Internal Audit function has supported the Council in meeting the requirements of Regulation 4 the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011. These state that:

"The relevant body is responsible for ensuring that the financial management of the body is adequate and effective and that the body has a sound system of internal control which facilitates the effective exercise of that body's functions and which includes arrangements for the management of risk."

"The relevant body must conduct a review at least once in a year of the effectiveness of its system of internal control."

2. The purpose of my annual Head of Internal Audit Opinion is to contribute to the assurances available to the Chief Executive and the Council, which underpin the Council's own assessment of the effectiveness of the authority's system of internal control. This opinion is one component that the Council must take into account when completing its Annual Governance Statement.

(END)