



Council name	<b>COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL</b>
Name and date of Committee	<b>AUDIT COMMITTEE – 28 JANUARY 2021</b>
Report Number	<b>AGENDA ITEM 8</b>
Subject	<b>INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT</b>
Wards affected	N/A
Accountable member	Cllr Mike Evely, Cabinet Member for Finance Email: mike.evely@cloud.cotswold.gov.uk
Accountable officer	Jenny Poole, Chief Finance Officer Tel: 01285 623313 Email: jenny.poole@cotswold.gov.uk
Summary/Purpose	To present a summary of the audit work concluded since the last meeting of this Committee.
Annexes	Annex A – Summary of work completed since October 2020 Annex B – External Quality Assessment (EQA) Report Summary
Recommendation/s	<i>That the Committee considers the reports at Annex A and B and comments as necessary.</i>
Corporate priorities	Ensure that all services delivered by the Council are delivered to the highest standard.
Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	N/A

## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1. The Internal Audit Service is provided to this Council by SWAP Internal Audit Services (SWAP). SWAP is a local authority-controlled company.
- 1.2. The report attached at Annex A sets out the work undertaken by SWAP for the Council since the last meeting of this Committee. It follows the risk-based auditing principles and, therefore, this is an opportunity for the Committee to be aware of emerging issues which have resulted from SWAP involvement.
- 1.3. Officers from SWAP will be in attendance at the Committee meeting and will be available to address Members' questions.

## **2. MAIN POINTS**

- 2.1. The progress report enables the Audit Committee to monitor the work of the Internal Audit Service and ensure that it remains effective. It also provides the Committee with assurance opinions over areas reviewed within the reporting period, details of audit recommendations and the outcome of follow-up reviews conducted on previous audit recommendations.
- 2.2. Earlier in the year an External Quality Assessment (EQA) was undertaken for SWAP Internal Audit Services, this is to ensure SWAP conforms to the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS). The outcome of the assessment was that SWAP 'generally conforms'. There were a small number of areas where partial conformance was identified. These were minor observations, none of which were significant enough to affect the overall opinion. Some were captured across more than one of the attribute standards or are recommendations for improvement, rather than failures in conformance. These areas are being actioned by SWAP Senior Leadership Team. The report is attached at Annex 'B' for information.

## **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1. The Internal Audit Service is operating within the contract sum.

## **4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1. None directly from this report. Internal Audit reviews consider compliance with legislation relevant to the service area under review.

## **5. RISK ASSESSMENT**

- 5.1. Any weaknesses in the control framework, identified by Internal Audit activity, continues to threaten organisational objectives until recommendations are implemented.

## **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 6.1. Internal Audit Reports