



Council name	COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL
Name and date of Committee	AUDIT COMMITTEE – 28 APRIL 2022
Report Number	AGENDA ITEM 13
Subject	INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT
Wards affected	N/A
Accountable member	Cllr Mike Every, Cabinet Member for Finance Email: mike.every@cotswold.gov.uk
Accountable officer	Jenny Poole, Chief Finance Officer 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 – Report of Internal Audit Activity – Plan Progress 2021/22
Recommendation(s)	<i>a) That the Committee considers the report at Annex A 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 in 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 We have finalised 4 audits since the last meeting of this committee
 - Payroll – High Substantial
 - Monitoring the Performance of Strategic Commissioned Services – High Reasonable
 - Council Tax and NNDR – Low Reasonable
 - Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support – Low Reasonable

The two revenues and benefits audits have been assessed, as above, because reconciliations are not being performed, as per financial rules, and progress against previous agreed actions has not been completed. But as the service have had an increased workload, due to the Pandemic, and have successfully implemented a significant system change, we feel this is a positive assurance.

We continue to follow up all agreed actions. Updates against the higher priority actions is included in the report along with tables showing progress against all agreed actions.

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 The following documents have been identified by the author of the report in accordance with section 100D.5(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 and are listed in accordance with section 100 D.1(a) for inspection by members of the public:

- Internal Audit Reports.

These documents will be available for inspection at the Council Offices at Trinity Road, Cirencester, GL7 1PX during normal office hours for a period of up to 4 years from the date of the meeting. Please contact democratic services via democratic@cotswold.gov.uk

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