

AUDIT COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 6
25 JUNE 2012	PUBLIC REPORT

Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Seaton, Cabinet Member for Resources	
Committee Member responsible:	Councillor Lamb, Chair of Audit Committee	
Contact Officer(s):	Steve Crabtree, Chief Internal Auditor	☎ 384 557

INTERNAL AUDIT: ANNUAL AUDIT OPINION 2011 / 2012

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM : John Harrison, Executive Director (Strategic Resources)	Deadline date : N/A
Audit Committee is asked to	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Receive, consider and endorse the attached Chief Internal Auditor's annual report for the year ended 31 March 2012; and 2. Note the report of Internal Audit's performance. 	

1. **ORIGIN OF REPORT**

This report provides details of the performance of Internal Audit during 2011 / 2012 and the areas of work undertaken, together with an opinion on the soundness of the control environment in place to minimise risk to the Council.

2. **PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

- 2.1 The Terms of Reference for the Audit Committee (agreed at Full Council) set out the key roles of the Committee including the following "2.2.2 *To consider the Director of Strategic Resources annual audit report and opinion, and a summary of internal audit activity (actual and proposed) and the level of assurance it can give over the council's corporate governance arrangements*".
- 2.2 The report provides an overall opinion on the soundness of the control environment in place to minimise risk to the Council. It is based on the findings of completed internal audits.

3. **INTERNAL AUDIT OPINION**

- 3.1 The Internal Audit Opinion is based on review work undertaken during the period April 2011 to March 2012 and is set out in the attached Appendix.
- 3.2 Summaries of work carried out by Internal Audit are documented within the opinion, and, overall it is considered that Internal Audit can place **REASONABLE ASSURANCE** on the controls environment. As a result an unqualified opinion is provided. Where systems have fallen below expected standards, details of these have

been identified within the report as well as through out the year to audit committee. Furthermore, ongoing internal performance indicators are monitored and their level of achievement, or otherwise, are included for information purposes.

4. **CONSULTATION**

Summary committee reports are produced and discussed periodically through Audit Committee for information and challenge. All audit reports are issued on a monthly basis to the appropriate Head(s) of Service for action, Executive Directors, Chief Executive, Leader of the Council and the Chair of Audit Committee in accordance with the agreed Audit Charter.

5. **ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES**

That the Audit Committee is informed of the Internal Audit Opinion and the work carried out by Internal Audit to support this.

6. **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

In accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011 and the CIPFA Code of Practice for Internal Audit in Local Government 2006, this report summarises the work of the Internal Audit section and its outcomes in their review of internal control for the last financial year. This should be incorporated with the results of other reviews to produce the required Annual Governance Statement, which should be signed by the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council and published with the annual Statement of Accounts.

7. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

No other options appropriate.

8. **IMPLICATIONS**

None.

9. **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

(Used to prepare this report in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985)

Internal Audit Plan 2011 / 2012

Internal Audit reports

Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011

CIPFA Code of Practice for Internal Audit in Local Government 2006

10. **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Annual Audit Opinion 2011 / 2012