

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

Audit Committee

2 December 2020

INTERNAL AUDIT UPDATE

Report by Chief Internal Auditor
(Report No.20/235)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report presents a summary of Internal Audit's work undertaken as part of the Internal Audit Plans for 2019/20 and 2020/21.

1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES

- 1.1 The Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) require that the Chief Internal Auditor reports periodically to the Audit Committee on internal audit activity and on performance relative to the approved plan.
- 1.2 From September 2020, Internal Audit has been contacted 4 times for advice/guidance. Internal Audit will follow up on these areas during the year, where necessary. Where control issues arise as a result of this work, Internal Audit will provide the Audit Committee with a report.
- 1.3 Appendix 1 shows the areas of work which have been undertaken since the meeting of the Audit Committee in September 2020.
- 1.4 In addition to undertaking work in connection with the Internal Audit Plan for Perth & Kinross Council, the team was undertaking assignments in relation to the Perth & Kinross Integration Joint Board. Internal Audit has also supported Services in preparing for the National Fraud Initiative's data upload.
- 1.5 Local authorities have been requested to provide support for the NHS Test & Protect service as part of an agreement with COSLA. For Perth & Kinross Council, Internal Audit is providing part of this support, as the team had previously been provided with the relevant training in this area. This reduction in Internal Audit available resources is impacting on the timing and completion of internal audits in line with the approved Internal Audit Plan. It is also noted that Services' ability to support Internal Audit activity at a time when managing exceptional circumstances may also impact on the timing of reports being made available for Audit Committee. The situation will be under review and any detrimental impact will be provided in an update to the next meeting of the Audit Committee.

2. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 This report presents a summary of Internal Audit's work.

2.2 It is recommended that the Committee notes:

- i) the assignments undertaken by Internal Audit since the last meeting of the Audit Committee; and
- ii) the potential impact of Internal Audit supporting the NHS Test & Protect service on the delivery of the Internal Audit Plan 2020/21.

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1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Strategic Implications	Yes / None
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	None
Strategic Plan	Yes
Resource Implications	
Financial	None
Workforce	None
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	None
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	Yes
Strategic Environmental Assessment	None
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	None
Legal and Governance	None
Risk	Yes
Consultation	
Internal	Yes
External	None
Communication	
Communications Plan	None

1. Strategic Implications

Community Plan/Single Outcome Agreement

Corporate Plan

- 1.1 The Council's Corporate Plan 2018 – 2022 lays out five outcome focussed strategic objectives which provide clear strategic direction, inform decisions at a corporate and service level and shape resources allocation. They are as follows:

- (i) Giving every child the best start in life;
- (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens;
- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy;
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and
- (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

- 1.2 This report relates to all of these objectives.

2. Assessments

Equality Impact Assessment

- 2.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties.

- 2.2 The information contained within this report has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) and has been assessed as **not relevant** for the purposes of EqIA.

Risk

- 2.3 The risks are associated with the level of assurance provided on the control environment in the event that Internal Audit's planned work is not completed on time.

3. Consultation

Internal

- 3.1 The Chief Executive and Head of Legal and Governance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

2. BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

3. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Internal Audit Activity