

AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE

28 JUNE 2022

INTERNAL AUDIT UPDATE

Report by Chief Internal Auditor
(Report No 22/152)

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 This report presents a summary of Internal Audit's work undertaken as part of the Internal Audit Plans for 2020/21 and 2021/22.

2. RECOMMENDATION	
2.1	It is recommended that the Committee notes progress with Internal Audit activity and the outcome of consultancy/oversight activity

3. STRUCTURE OF REPORT

- 3.1 This report is structured over the following sections:

- Section 4: Background
- Section 5: Progress Update
- Section 6: Audit Outcomes
- Appendix

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 Work has continued on assignments from Perth & Kinross Council's Internal Audit Plan. In addition, work has continued to be undertaken in connection with the Internal Audit provision for the Integration Joint Board.
- 4.3 The team are also involved with a whistleblowing disclosure. If there are any control issues highlighted as a result of this investigation, these will be considered for reporting to a future meeting of the Audit & Risk Committee.

5. PROGRESS UPDATE

- 5.1 The Service has been unable so far to recruit to the vacant post of Senior Internal Auditor and is reviewing options to secure appropriate resource for the function.

- 5.2 Given the resource pressures created by recruitment issues and a need to respond to additional reactive work in the course of the year, some elements of the 2021/22 workplan will be rolled forward into the 2022/23 Internal Audit Plan which will be presented to you for consideration.
- 5.3 Appendix 1 shows the status of audits arising from the 2021-22 Internal Audit Plan. This documents those assignments which will continue into 2022/23.

6. AUDIT OUTCOMES

- 6.1 Included within the 2021/22 Internal Audit Plan was an audit of IT Assets, with an indicative scope of “to provide assurance over the management of IT and information assets.” Internal Audit has focussed this year on how the Council has continued to enhance its arrangements around the management of information security risks and progress with identified improvement actions.
- 6.2 Internal Audit can confirm that actions have been taken to improve the Council’s security arrangements, including the development of the Cyber Incident Response Plan. These arrangements are being implemented and embedded but it is not appropriate as yet to review their effectiveness across the organisation. Further improvement actions are being delivered within 2022/23 and Internal Audit proposes to continue to undertake an independent review of effectiveness as part of the 2022/23 Internal Audit Plan.

Authors

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APPENDICES

- Appendix 1 Internal Audit Activity