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| Subject: | Internal Audit Progress Report – Quarter 2 (1 July to 30 September 2019) | | |
| Date of Meeting: | 14 January 2020 | | |
| Report of: | Executive Director, Finance & Resources | | |
| Contact Officer: | Name: | Mark Dallen | Tel: 29-1314 |
| | Email: | Mark.Dallen@brighton-hove.gov.uk | |
| Ward(s) affected: | All | | |

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on all internal audit and counter fraud activity completed during the quarter, including a summary of all key audit findings. The report also includes details of progress on delivery of the annual audit plan along with an update on the performance of the internal audit service during the period.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

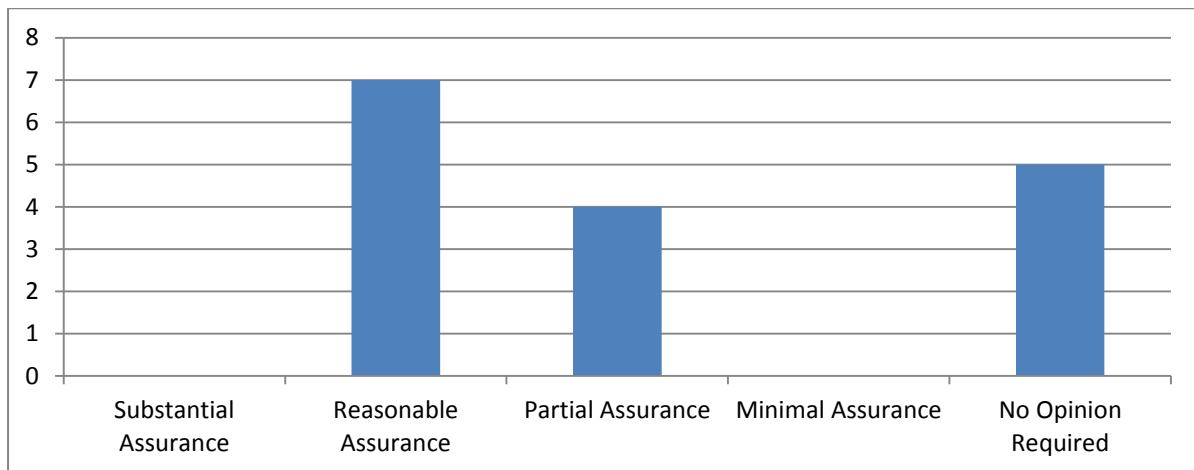
- 2.1 That the Committee note the report.
- 2.2 That the Executive Director, Health & Adult Social Care reports back to the next Audit and Standards Committee on progress on the actions within the follow-up Internal Audit report on Extra Care Housing.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The current annual plan for internal audit is contained within the Internal Audit Strategy and Annual Plan 2019/20 which was approved by the Audit and Standards Committee on 12 March 2019.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 Internal Audit is on target to deliver 90% of the approved audit plan as per the key performance indicator.
- 4.2 Key audit findings from final reports issued during Quarter 2 are detailed in Appendix 1 and the opinions given are summarised in the chart below. There were seven reasonable assurance and four partial assurance reports. In addition there were five pieces of audit work which did not require an assurance opinion.



4.3 Formal follow up reviews continue to be carried out for all audits where ‘minimal assurance’ opinions have been given and for higher risk areas receiving ‘partial assurance’.

4.4 It should be noted that one of the reports that gave ‘partial assurance’, Extra Care Housing, was a follow-up of a 2018/19 audit of this service that also gave ‘partial assurance’. As a result it is recommended that officers be asked to separately report back to this Committee on the actions being taken to address the risks identified in the most recent audit report.

4.5 Appendix 1 also provides details of counter fraud investigations completed, information on the tracking of high priority actions and progress against our performance targets.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

5.1 None.

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 The Committee is asked to note the report.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

7.1 It is expected that the Internal Audit and Corporate Fraud Plan 2019/20 will be delivered within existing budgetary resources. Progress against the plan and action taken in line with actions support the robustness and resilience of the council’s practices and procedures in support of the council’s overall financial position.

Finance Officer Consulted: James Hengeveld

Date: 18/12/19

Legal Implications:

7.2 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require the Council to ‘undertake an effective internal audit to evaluate the effectiveness of its risk management, control and governance processes, taking into account public sector internal

auditing standards'. It is a legitimate part of the Audit and Standards Committee's role to review the level of work completed and planned by internal audit.

Lawyer Consulted: Victoria Simpson

Date: 20/12/19

Equalities Implications:

- 7.3 There are no direct equalities implications.

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.4 There are no direct sustainability implications.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Internal Audit and Counter Fraud Quarter 2 Progress Report 2019/20

Background Documents

1. Internal Audit and Corporate Fraud Strategic Plan 2019/20.

