

Subject:	Internal Audit Annual Report and Opinion 2019/20		
Date of Meeting:	21 July 2020		
Report of:	Acting Director of Finance and Resources		
Contact Officer:	Mark Dallen (Audit Manager)	07795 336145	
Name:	Russell Banks (Chief Internal Auditor)	Tel: 07824 362739	
Email:	mark.dallen@brighton-hove.gov.uk Russell.banks@eastsussex.gov.uk		
Ward(s) affected:	All		

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

- 1.1 The Internal Audit Annual Report and Opinion sets out the Chief Internal Auditor's opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the council's framework of governance, risk management and control for the year-ended 31 March 2020.
- 1.2 The report also includes a summary of the results of internal audit work for the year along with a narrative summary of those audits finalised since the last progress report to this Committee in March 2020.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Committee note that reasonable assurance has been given on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's framework of governance, risk management and control for the year ended 31 March 2020.
- 2.2 That the Committee note the assurances and improvement actions detailed on audits finalised since the last progress report to this Committee in March 2020.

3. CONTEXT/ BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations (England) 2015 require local authorities to undertake an effective internal audit to evaluate the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance processes considering public sector internal auditing standards or guidance.
- 3.2 As part of these requirements the Chief Internal Auditor is required to: give an opinion on the control environment conduct an annual review of the effectiveness of the internal audit function and have the findings considered by a committee.

- 3.3 The second requirement was met by a self-assessment carried out at the end of 2019/20. Once every 5 years the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards require that an independent assessment is carried out. This requirement was last delivered in 2017/18 through a review of the service by the South West Internal Audit Partnership.

4. ANALYSIS & CONSIDERATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 The requirement to have an internal audit function is set out in the Accounts and Audit Regulations (England) 2015.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The annual report has been informed by audit and corporate fraud work carried out during the year which has included extensive engagement with officers and members.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The Chief Internal Auditor has concluded that reasonable assurance can be provided on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the council's framework of governance, risk management and control for the year-ended 31 March 2020.
- 6.2 The council has set out in the annual governance statement how it plans to address the areas for improvement. This statement is part of a separate agenda item on this meeting's agenda.

7. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Sound corporate governance, risk management and control are essential to the financial health and reputation of the council.

Finance Officer Consulted: James Hengeveld

Date: 15/06/20

Legal Implications:

- 7.2 *The Accounts and Audit Regulations (England) 2015 require that the findings of the effectiveness review be considered by Council or one of its committees. The Audit and Standards Committee is the designated committee for this purpose.*

Lawyer Consulted: Victoria Simpson

Date: 11/06/20

Equalities Implications:

- 7.3 There are no equalities implications arising from this Report

Sustainability Implications:

- 7.4 There are no sustainability implications arising from this Report

Any other significant implications:

7.5 None

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

A: Internal Audit Annual Report & Opinion 2019/20

B: Audits Completed in Quarter 4 (January to March 2020)

Background Documents

1. Annual Internal Audit Plan 2019/20

