

Brighton & Hove City Council

Audit, Standards and General Purposes Committee

Agenda Item 14

Subject: Internal Audit and Counter Fraud Quarter 4 Progress Report 2025/26

Date of meeting: 23rd June 2026

Report of: Director of Property and Finance (S151)

Contact Officer: Carolyn Sheehan (Audit Manager)
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Mark Winton (Acting Chief Internal Auditor)
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Ward(s) affected: All

For general release

1. Purpose of the report and policy context

- 1.1 This report provides Members with an update on all internal audit and counter fraud activity completed during quarter 4 (2025/26), including a summary of all key audit findings.

2. Recommendations

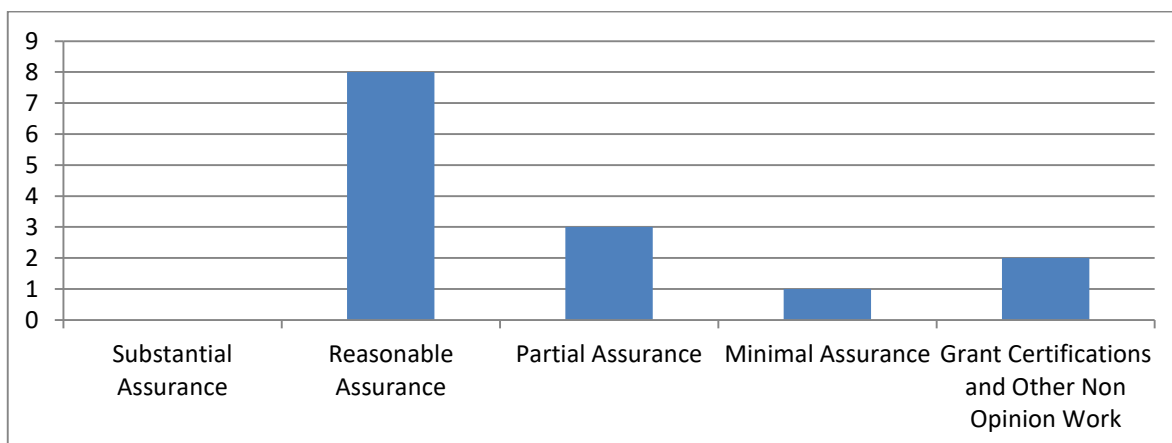
- 2.1 That the Committee note the report and consider the findings from Internal Audit activities in accordance with the Committee's terms of reference.

3. Context and background information

- 3.1 The current annual plan for internal audit is included within the Internal Audit Strategy and Annual Plan 2025/26 Report which was approved by the Audit, Standards and General Purposes Committee on 22nd April 2025.

4. Analysis and consideration of alternative options

- 4.1 Full details of both the internal audit and counter fraud work delivered during quarter 4 are detailed in Appendix 1.
- 4.2 Performance for the service is covered in the separate annual report for 2025-26, included in the agenda pack for this Committee.
- 4.3 The audit reports finalised in quarter 4 are summarised in the chart below, with eight reasonable assurance, three partial assurance and 1 minimal assurance. In addition, there were two non-opinion reports, where the service provided advice and support. These have been included under the category "Grant Certifications and Non-Opinion work."



5. Community engagement and consultation

- 5.1 The quarterly progress report has been informed by internal audit and counter fraud work completed during the quarter which included extensive engagement with officers.

6. Financial implications

- 6.1 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.

Name of finance officer consulted: Haley Woollard Date consulted: 05/06/25

7. Legal implications

- 7.1 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 Audit Standards. Reviewing the work planned and completed by the Council's internal audit function is a key part of the Audit, Standards and General Purposes Committee's delegated functions.

Name of lawyer consulted: Victoria Simpson Date consulted (28/05/26):

8. Risk implications

- 8.1 The Council's Internal Audit Strategy and Plan is based on a combination of management's assessment of risk (including that set out within the departmental and strategic risk registers) and our own risk assessment of the Council's major systems and other auditable areas. Issues arising from individual audit reports, summarised in quarterly progress reports to this Committee, have been presented to management and action plans have been formally agreed to mitigate risks. It is a management responsibility to establish and maintain internal control systems and to ensure that resources are properly applied, risks appropriately managed and outcomes achieved.

9. Equalities implications

9.1 There are no direct equalities implications.

10. Sustainability implications

10.1 There are no sustainability implications.

11. Other Implications

11.1 There are no other implications.

12. Conclusion

12.1 The Committee is asked to note the report.

Supporting Documentation

Appendices

1. Internal Audit and Counter Fraud Quarter 4 Progress Report 2025-26

