

Wednesday, 25 September 2024

Report of the Audit Manager

Internal Audit Quarterly Progress Report - Quarter 1 2024/25

Exempt Information

None.

Purpose

To provide Audit & Governance Committee with internal audit's progress report for period to 30th June 2024.

Recommendations

That the Committee notes Internal Audit's Quarterly Progress Report (**Appendix 1**), which includes results up to 30th June 2024.

Executive Summary

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require councils to undertake an effective internal audit to evaluate effectiveness of their risk management, control and governance processes, taking into account the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and guidance.

Progress during Quarter 1 of 2024/25 is contained and detailed in **Appendix 1** to this report. The profiled performance for the year indicates that the service should have completed 25% of the Audit Plan by the end of the quarter. Whilst we have not met this target all audit work scheduled for the quarter was initiated and we completed 2 audits 12% of the plan during the period. During quarter 1 we also completed 3 out of the 4 audits rolled forward from 2023/24. During Quarter 1 our planned work was affected by additional work requested by management in respect of a review of the cash income and collection processes at the Assembly Rooms.

We continue to use BDO as a general auditor provider and these arrangements were extended into 2024/25. BDO have now completed all their outstanding work from 2023/24 and are currently scoping and briefing their allocated audits for 2024/25.

We continue to follow up and report to committee the outstanding audit recommendations raised from previous audits. These are shown in the quarterly progress report and include a graphical representation of the total number of recommendations and their priority level. Previous reports included both recommendations from 2019/20 and 2020/21, however the current reported levels show figures for 2021/22 onwards. The number of outstanding recommendations peaked at 130 at the end of Quarter 1 2021/22 and has reduced over time to currently 57 as at 30th June 2024. Committee should note that the number of outstanding audit recommendations fluctuates over time and over the last year remained fairly static. This takes into account the number of audit recommendations 'closed' and newly 'opened' at the conclusion of our audit work.

Options Considered

Not Applicable.

Resource Implications

Not Applicable.

Legal/Risk Implications Background

Failure to report would lead to non-compliance with the requirements of the Annual Governance Statement and the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

Equalities Implications

Community Impact Assessment completed, no implications identified. See attached **Appendix 2**.

Environment and Sustainability Implications (including climate change)

None.

Background Information

None.

Report Author

Andrew Wood – Audit Manager
Andrew-wood@tamworth.gov.uk

List of Background Papers

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Quarterly Internal Audit Progress Report to 30th June 2024.
Appendix 2 - Community Impact Assessment