



REPORT TO:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	28 July 2016
REPORT OF THE:	FINANCE MANAGER (s151) PETER JOHNSON
TITLE OF REPORT:	INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL REPORT 2015/15
WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. In accordance with chapter 5 of the council's Audit Charter, 'The Head of Internal Audit is required to provide an annual report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The report will be used by the Committee to inform its consideration of the Council's annual governance statement.'
- 1.2. The report summarises the outcomes of audit work undertaken in 2015/16 and provides an opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the authority's internal control arrangements.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 Members are asked to
 - a) Note the results of the audit work undertaken in 2015/16
 - b) Accept the opinion of the Head of Internal Audit on the adequacy and the effectiveness of the authority's internal control environment.

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 3 It is recommended the report is considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as it summarises the audit work undertaken during the year. It also encompasses the overall internal audit opinion of the internal control framework which forms part of the Annual Governance Statement.

4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS

- 4.1 The Council will fail to comply with proper practice requirements for internal audit and the Council's Audit Charter if the results of audit work are not considered by an appropriate Committee.

5.0 POLICY CONTEXT AND CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The work of internal audit supports the council's overall aims and priorities by promoting probity, integrity and honesty and by helping support the council to become a more effective organisation.

6.0 REPORT DETAILS

- 6.1 The results of completed audit work have been reported to relevant officers during the course of the year. In addition, summaries of all finalised audit reports have been presented to this committee as part of regular monitoring reports. Details of the audits finalised since the last report to this committee in April 2016 are included in Appendix 2 to the supporting report. All of the work from the 2015/16 audit plan has been completed.
- 6.2 The overall opinion of the Head of Internal Audit on the governance, risk management, and control framework operating in the Council is that it provides **Reasonable Assurance**. There are no qualifications to that opinion. No reliance was placed on the work of other assurance bodies in reaching this opinion.
- 6.3 Although a reasonable assurance opinion can be given, we are aware of some weaknesses in the control environment which have been identified around Payroll and operation of the corporate Risk Management arrangements. These areas should be considered for inclusion in the Council's Annual Governance Statement.
- 6.4 The Head of Internal Audit is required to develop and maintain an ongoing quality assurance and improvement programme (QAIP). The objective of the QAIP is to ensure working practices continue to conform to the required professional standards. The outcomes from the QAIP (which included an independent of Veritau's practices in 2015) demonstrated that the service provided by Veritau conformed to the International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing. Full details are included in Appendix 5 to the supporting report.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The following implications have been identified:
- a) Financial
None
 - b) Legal
None
 - c) Other (Equalities, Staffing, Planning, Health & Safety, Environmental, Crime & Disorder)
None

Peter Johnson
Finance Manager (s151)

Author: Stuart Cutts Audit Manager.
Veritau Limited
Telephone No: 01653 600666
E-Mail Address: stuart.cutts@veritau.co.uk