

Bolsover District Council

**Meeting of the Audit and Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee on 24th
January 2023**

Summary of Progress on the 2022/23 Internal Audit Plan

Report of the Head of the Internal Audit Consortium

Classification	This report is Public
Report By	Head of the Internal Audit Consortium
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PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT

To present, for members' information, a progress report in respect of the 2022/23 Internal Audit Plan.

REPORT DETAILS

1. Background

- 1.1 The Public Sector Internal Audit Standards require that the Head of the Internal Audit Consortium reports periodically to the Audit and Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee in respect of performance against the audit plan. Significant risk and control issues should also be reported.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

- 2.1 Appendix 1 is a summary of reports issued between October 2022 and the beginning of January 2023 in respect of the 2022/23 Internal Audit Plan. The Appendix shows for each report the level of assurance given and the number of recommendations made / agreed where a full response has been received. This provides an overall assessment of the system's ability to meet its objectives and manage risk. The definitions of the assurance levels used can be seen in the table below. The assurance levels have also now been linked to definitions of risk within the risk management strategy.

Assurance Level	Internal Audit Definition	Risk Register Link
Substantial Assurance	There is a sound system of controls in place, designed to achieve the system objectives. Controls are being consistently applied and risks well managed.	Minor / negligible impact
Reasonable Assurance	The majority of controls are in place and operating effectively, although some control improvements are required. The system should achieve its objectives. Risks are generally well managed.	Minor / moderate
Limited Assurance	Certain important controls are either not in place or not operating effectively. There is a risk that the system may not achieve its objectives. Some key risks were not well managed.	Moderate / Severe Impact
Inadequate Assurance	There are fundamental control weaknesses, leaving the system/service open to material errors or abuse and exposes the Council to significant risk. There is little assurance of achieving the desired objectives.	Catastrophic Impact

- 2.2 In this period 7 reports have been issued 4 with substantial assurance and 3 with reasonable assurance.
- 2.3 Appendix 2 provides full details of the audits completed and those in progress. Progress on the plan is good although the whole plan will not be completed by the year end. A new BDC Auditor started in August 2022 and a new BDC Senior Auditor is due to start on the 23rd January 2023 which has meant a loss of time due to vacancies and initial training / induction. There has also been a Senior Auditor vacancy at NEDDC for a number of months, this post has been filled internally and we are now recruiting for an NEDDC Auditor. Any outstanding audit areas will be considered for inclusion in the 2023/24 Internal Audit Plan on a risk basis.
- 2.4 No issues arising relating to fraud were identified.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 To inform Members of progress on the 2022/23 Internal Audit Plan and to provide details of the Audit Reports issued to date.
- 3.2 To comply with the requirements of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 N/A

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the report be noted.

Approved by Councillor Clive Moesby Portfolio Holder for Finance

IMPLICATIONS:

Finance and Risk: Yes No

Details:

Internal audit reviews help to ensure that processes and controls are operating effectively thereby contributing to ensuring that value for money is obtained.

On behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection): Yes No

Details:

The core work of internal audit is derived from the statutory responsibility under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 which requires the Council to “undertake an effective internal audit to evaluate the effectiveness of its risk management, control and governance processes, taking in to account the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards or guidance”.

On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Environment:

Please identify (if applicable) how this proposal/report will help the Authority meet its carbon neutral target or enhance the environment.

Details:

Staffing: Yes No

Details:

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

<p>Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:</p> <p>Revenue - £75,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £150,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i></p>	No
<p>Is the decision subject to Call-In? <i>(Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</i></p>	No

<p>District Wards Significantly Affected</p>	None
<p>Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Executive <input type="checkbox"/> SLT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/></p>	Details:

<p>Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy and Environment.</p>
<p>Internal audit reviews help to ensure that the Council is delivering high quality, cost effective services.</p>

DOCUMENT INFORMATION	
Appendix No	Title
1	Summary of Internal Audit reports issued between October 2022 and early January 2023 in respect of the 2022/23 to date
2	Progress on the 2022/23 Internal Audit Plan

<p>Background Papers</p>
<p><i>(These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Executive you must provide copies of the background papers).</i></p>