

Internal Audit - Progress Report for 2013/14 Quarter 3

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REASON FOR ITEM

The attached report presents the Council's Audit Committee with summary information on all Internal Audit work covered and assurance in this respect during the October to December 2013 period. It also provides an opportunity for the Head of Internal Audit to highlight to the Audit Committee any significant issues that they need be aware of that have arisen since the last Internal Audit progress report in September 2013. It also enables the Audit Committee to hold the Head of Internal Audit to account on delivery of the Internal Audit plan and facilitates in holding management to account for managing risk and control weaknesses identified during the course of Internal Audit activity.

OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee is asked to note the Internal Audit Progress Report for 2013/14 Quarter 3 (October to December 2013).

The Audit Committee should ensure that the coverage, performance and results of Internal Audit activity in this quarter are considered and any additional assurance requirements are communicated to the Head of Internal Audit.

INFORMATION

Internal Audit provides an independent appraisal and consultancy service that underpins good governance, which is essential in helping the Council achieve its strategic objectives and realise its vision for the borough of Hillingdon. It is also a requirement of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 that the Council undertakes an adequate and effective Internal Audit of its accounting records and of its system of internal control in accordance with the proper practices in relation to internal control.

The new Public Sector Internal Audit Standards which came into force on 1 April 2013 are intended to promote further improvement in the professionalism, quality, consistency and effectiveness of Internal Audit across the public sector. They stress the importance of robust, independent and objective Internal Audit arrangements to provide senior management with the key assurances they need to support them both in managing the organisation and in producing the Annual Governance Statement.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.