

IA Progress Report for 2015/16 Quarter 3 (including the Quarter 4 IA Plan)

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REASON FOR ITEM

The attached report presents the Audit Committee with summary information on all Internal Audit (IA) work covered in relation to the 2015/16 Quarterly 3 IA Plan and assurance in this respect during. It also provides an opportunity for the Head of IA to highlight to the Audit Committee any significant issues that they need be aware of that have arisen.

It enables the Audit Committee to hold the Head of IA to account on delivery of the 2015/16 Quarter 3 IA Plan and facilitates in holding management to account for managing risk and control weaknesses identified during the course of IA activity.

The attached report also presents the Audit Committee with the Quarter 4 IA Plan which has been produced in consultation with senior managers. The Plan sets out the programme of IA coverage which is due to commence in the 1st January to 31st March 2016 period.

OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee is asked to note the IA Progress Report for 2015/16 Quarter 3 (17th September to 4th December 2015) and consider the Quarter 4 IA Plan for 2015/16 and, subject to any further minor amendments, approve it.

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

INFORMATION

IA 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 IA of its accounting records and of its system of internal control in accordance with the proper practices.

The PSIAS, which came into force on the 1st April 2013, promote further improvement in the professionalism, quality, consistency and effectiveness of IA across the public sector. They stress the importance of robust, independent and objective IA 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 (AGS).

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.