

Business Assurance - Internal Audit Annual Report & Opinion Statement 2015/16

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REASON FOR ITEM

The UK Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) requires the Head of Business Assurance, as the Council's Head of Internal Audit (IA), to deliver an Annual Internal Audit Report and Opinion Statement that can be used by the Council to inform and support its Annual Governance Statement. Therefore, in setting out how it meets the reporting requirements, this report and opinion statement also outlines how Internal Audit (IA) has supported the Council in meeting the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015. The report also summarises the main findings arising from the 2015/16 IA assurance and consultancy work.

This report provides the opportunity for the Head of Business Assurance to highlight to the Committee any significant matters arising from the work of IA during 2015/16. The draft report was considered by CMT on 29th June 2016 to allow comment by the officer body responsible for the Council's internal control, corporate governance and risk management arrangements.

OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee are asked to note the Annual IA Report and Opinion Statement 2015/16.

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 2015 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.