

Business Assurance - IA Progress Report for 2016/17 Quarter 4 (including the 2017/18 Quarter 1 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 2016/17 Quarter 4 and assurance in this respect. It also provides an opportunity for the Head of Business Assurance to highlight to the Audit Committee any significant issues that have arisen which they need to be aware of.

Further, the report enables the Audit Committee to hold the Head of Business Assurance to account on delivery of the Quarter 4 IA Plan and facilitates in holding management to account for managing risk/control weaknesses identified during the course of IA activity.

The attached report also presents the Audit Committee with the 2017/18 Quarter 1 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 April to 30th June 2017 period.

OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee is asked to note the IA Progress Report for 2016/17 Quarter 4 and consider the 2017/18 Quarter 1 IA Plan and subject to any further minor amendments, approve it.

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

INFORMATION

Business Assurance 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.

New IA standards came into force on 1st April 2013, revised in April 2016, which further promote 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.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The Business Assurance service holds various background research papers in relation to the IA Plan.