

Report to:

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Relevant Officers:

Chloe Shore, Community Engagement and Partnerships Manager

Date of Meeting

23 January 2020

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AUDIT FOLLOW-UP

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider a progress report on the recommendations made in the internal audit report of Community Engagement issued on 18 December 2018.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To consider the actions being implemented to address the audit recommendations relating to Community Engagement.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To enable Audit Committee to consider an update and progress report on the audit recommendations.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

N/a

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council priority is organisational resilience.

5.0 Background Information

5.1 At its meeting in June 2019, the Audit Committee agreed to invite Heads of Service to the meeting to provide an update in relation to internal audit recommendation implementation.

The report being considered at this meeting relates to Community Engagement with the scope and assurance statement as follows:

Scope

The scope of the audit was to review and assess the current arrangements for engagement with the community across the Council's various service areas in order to assist the Community Engagement team in embedding a strategic, effective and consistent approach to engagement going forward.

Overall Opinion and Assurance Statement

The Council's community engagement activity is not governed by any specific controls, nor does it work within the parameters of any corporate guidance, although those that undertake statutory consultations will maintain some local guidance.

It is clear that the Council does engage, however whether that engagement is effective and of the right quality has not been proven, internal audit therefore consider there to be inadequate controls with a number of material risks identified and significant improvement required.

An update on actions is outlined at Appendix 3(a).

Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

List of Appendices:

Appendix 3(a): Internal Audit Recommendations and Agreed Actions.

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 Risks need to be effectively managed in order to comply with relevant legislation.

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 The controls being implemented will be undertaken by current employees.

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 N/a

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 The controls being implemented will be done so within current budget constraints.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 To enable the Audit Committee to gain assurance that risks are being effectively managed.

11.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

11.1 The progress report has been prepared in conjunction with the relevant Heads of Service and Chief Officers.

12.0 Background papers:

12.1 None.