

Report to:

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Relevant Officer:

Tracy Greenhalgh - Head of Audit and Risk

Meeting

29 February 2024

AUDIT AND RISK SERVICES QUARTER THREE REPORT

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To provide a summary of the work completed by Risk Services in quarter three of the 2023/24 financial year.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 Audit Committee is asked to note to content of the report.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure that the Council has effective risk management processes in place.

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

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

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 N/a

5.0 Council priority:

5.1 The work of the internal audit team contributes to the achievement of all of the Council's priorities.

6.0 Background information

6.1 Each quarter the Head of Audit and Risk produces a report summarising the work of Audit and Risk Services and this includes the overall assurance statements for all audit reviews completed in the quarter.

The Audit and Risk Services Quarterly Report is reported to the Corporate Leadership Team prior to being presented at Audit Committee.

On the completion of each audit an overall assurance statement is provided which summarises the

strength of controls in the area being audited. The opinions can provide positive assurance, such as when controls are identified to be good or adequate, or negative assurance when the controls are considered to be inadequate or uncontrolled.

6.2 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

7.1 Appendix 6(a) – Audit and Risk Services Quarter Three Report

8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 All work has been delivered within the agreed budget for Audit and Risk Services.

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 All work undertaken by Audit and Risk Services is in line with relevant legislation. This is particularly important when undertaking fraud investigations where a number of regulations need to be adhered to.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 The primary role of Audit and Risk Services is to provide assurance that the Council is effectively managing its risks and provide support to all services in relation to risk and control. Risks that have been identified in the quarter are reported in the summary report.

11.0 Equalities considerations and the impact of this decision for our children and young people:

11.1 Where appropriate matters pertaining to equalities will be considered as part of the advice and assurance work of Audit and Risk.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 Where appropriate matters pertaining to sustainability, climate change and the environment will be considered as part of the advice and assurance work of Audit and Risk.

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

13.1 N/a

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 N/a