


Internal Audit Progress Report

REPORT TO AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

 Burnley .gov.uk	DATE	17/03/2022
	PORTFOLIO	Resources and Performance Management
	REPORT AUTHOR	Ian Evenett
	TEL NO	01282 425011
	EMAIL	IEvenett@burnley.gov.uk

PURPOSE

1. To inform members of the work undertaken by Internal Audit for the period 1st October to 31st December 2021.

RECOMMENDATION

2. The Committee considers the progress report and comments on its contents.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3. Members can monitor the performance of the Internal Audit Section.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

Audit Reports

4. From 1st October to 31st December 2021, there was 1 audit report produced for the Council (1 audit report produced for Burnley Leisure and 2 incident reports). Details of audits (excluding Burnley Leisure's) are given in **Appendix 1**.

Performance Statistics

5. The comparison between actual and planned audits can be seen in **Appendix 2**. Several audits have started, and to date have been completed but due to timing will form part of annual update to be reported.
6. Performance indicators for Internal Audit are reported in the Finance balanced scorecard. The service currently reports the number of audit reports produced 19 – against an annual target of 22 (17 for the Council and 2 for Burnley Leisure) and the percentage of high-priority actions from audit action plans implemented which was 100% and has a target of 100%.

Other Activity

7. Work has commenced on the Annual Governance Statement for 2021/22, and consultation with Heads of Service and Management Team for the Internal Audit Plan has been completed.
8. The service has been supporting a council wide information governance campaign on e-mail phishing and phishing education.
9. The audit team have been supporting the Council's business continuity response to the Coronavirus pandemic: -
 - assisting with Business Support Grants and processing related suspected fraud reports (Omicron and ARG (Additional Restrictions Grant) Grants)
 - supporting the Council's Covid responses.
10. Internal Audit dealt with an incident relating to alleged COVID grant fraud this quarter, and one relating to a payment made as part of the Heritage Action Zone in the Town Centre.
11. The Council is planned to have its 5-Yearly External Review by the Lancashire Chief Auditors Group Peer Review Sub-Group on its compliance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) and CIPFA (Chartered Institute for Public Finance and Accountancy) Local Government Application Note in August 2022. The Peer Review is likely to be by two of the Lancashire Local Authorities Heads of Internal Audit.
12. As part of the Governments response to reports on Local Government Audit ([Measures to improve local audit delays - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)), the Council has been invited to participate in a North West Chairs' of Audit Committee's Forum. Details have been provided to the organisers of this.
13. Unfortunately, an Auditor is leaving the Council this month. Whilst vacant this will be an impact until a recruitment exercise can be completed.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

14. None

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

15. None

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

16. None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

17.None

FURTHER INFORMATION**PLEASE CONTACT:****Ian Evenett (Internal Audit Manager) Ext
7175****ALSO:****Salma Hussain (Auditor) Ext 3152**