

ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO AND DECISION OF CORPORATE SUPPORT COMMITTEE ON 24 MARCH 2022

SUBJECT: Provision of Internal Audit from 2022/23

REPORT AUTHOR: Carolin Martlew - Interim Group Head of Corporate
Support & s151 Officer

DATE: March 2022

EXTN: 37568

AREA: Corporate Support

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The future provision of the Internal Audit Service was considered at a meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 22 February 2022.

This report seeks approval to appoint the Southern Internal Audit Partnership (SIAP) as the Council's Internal Audit Service provider from 1 April 2022.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Committee is requested to:

1. Approve the appointment of the Southern Internal Audit Partnership (SIAP) as the Council's Internal Audit Service Provider from 1 April 2022; and
2. Approve the consequential changes in staffing arrangements to provide the Council with a suitably resourced Internal Audit service with effect from 1 April 2022 (see recommendation from the Audit and Governance Committee held on 22 February 2022 – Minute 666).

1. BACKGROUND:

- 1.1. The Council has experienced difficulty in the recruitment and retention of suitably qualified internal audit staff for a number of years. The Internal Audit Manager, the last remaining member of staff since the Senior Internal Auditor successfully applied for the position of Finance and Risk Manager, has expressed the wish to retire making the internal provision of the service no longer sustainable.
- 1.2. The Audit and Governance Committee considered options for the provision of the Internal Audit Service at its meeting on 22 February 2022 and agreed that the Southern Internal Audit Partnership would be the preferred option to provide a robust internal audit service for the Council.
- 1.3. The full report is attached as Appendix 1

2. PROPOSAL(S):		
2.1. To confirm the appointment of the Southern Internal Audit Partnership as the Council's internal audit provider as recommended by the Audit and Governance Committee.		
3. OPTIONS:		
a) To confirm the appointment of the Southern Internal Audit Partnership as the Council's internal audit provider as recommended by the Audit and Governance Committee for the reasons outlined in Appendix 1.		
b) Not to confirm the appointment of the Southern Internal Audit Partnership as the Council's internal audit provider as recommended by the Audit and Governance Committee. This option is not supported as Internal Audit is a statutory service.		
4. CONSULTATION:		
Has consultation been undertaken with:	YES	NO
Relevant Town/Parish Council		✓
Relevant District Ward Councillors		✓
Other groups/persons (please specify) • Unison	✓	
5. ARE THERE ANY IMPLICATIONS IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL POLICIES: (Explain in more detail at 6 below)	YES	NO
Financial	✓	
Legal	✓	
Human Rights/Equality Impact Assessment		✓
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime & Disorder Act		✓
Sustainability	✓	
Asset Management/Property/Land	✓	
Technology		✓
Other (please explain)		✓
6. IMPLICATIONS:		
Financial Implications		
The decision to join SIAP can be accommodated within existing budget provision.		

7. REASON FOR THE DECISION:

To ensure the council provides an adequate Internal Audit service in future following the planned leaving of the Internal Audit Manager

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Minutes from the meeting of the Audit & Governance Committee held on 22 February 2022. To access the minutes – please use this link:

[Minutes – 22 February 2022](#)