

Arun District Council

REPORT TO:	Audit and Governance Committee – 23 July 2024
SUBJECT:	Annual Internal Audit Report & Opinion 2023/24
LEAD OFFICER:	Antony Baden, Group Head of Finance and Section 151 Officer
LEAD MEMBER:	Cllr Matt Stanley
WARDS:	All
CORPORATE PRIORITY / POLICY CONTEXT / CORPORATE VISION: The Council's budget promotes all of the Council's Corporate Priorities.	
DIRECTORATE POLICY CONTEXT: The Council's Internal Audit Service has an effect on all Directorates of the Council.	
FINANCIAL SUMMARY: There are no direct financial implications arising from the report. Provision of a sound Internal Audit Service should result in effective financial control and guard against theft and fraud.	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to provide the Audit and Governance Committee with the annual audit opinion (2023-24) summarising internal audits opinion on the Council's framework of governance, risk and control

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.2. That the Committee approve the annual audit report and opinion for the year ended 2023-24.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1. The Annual Internal Audit Report & Opinion provides a summary of audit work that has been undertaken during the year (2023-24) to obtain all information and explanations considered necessary to provide sufficient assurance that the control environment is both reasonable and effective. Whilst no assurance can ever be absolute, on the basis of audit work completed, it is the Chief Internal Auditor's opinion that the Council's framework of governance, risk management and control is 'reasonable'.

3. DETAIL

3.1. The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 state:

'a relevant body must undertake an effective internal audit to evaluate the effectiveness of its risk management control and governance processes, taking into account public sector internal auditing standards or guidance'

The Chief Internal Auditor must deliver an annual internal audit opinion and report that can be used by the organisation to inform its governance statement.

The annual internal audit opinion must conclude on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the organisation's framework of governance, risk management and control.

The annual report must also include a statement on conformance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and the results of the quality assurance and improvement programme.

In accordance with the Standards the annual internal audit report and opinion should be approved by senior management and the Audit and Governance Committee.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1. No consultation has been undertaken with external bodies.

5. OPTIONS / ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

5.1. No other options are available.

6. COMMENTS BY THE GROUP HEAD OF CORPORATE SUPPORT/SECTION 151 OFFICER

6.1. A fit for purpose, monitored Internal Audit system enhances financial control and reduces the risk of theft and fraud for the Council.

7. RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

7.1. In not producing an annual internal audit report and opinion the Council would not be operating in accordance with the Accounts & Audit Regulations 2015.

8. COMMENTS OF THE GROUP HEAD OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE & MONITORING OFFICER

8.1. A sound system of Internal Audit is one of the requirements of the Local Government Finance Act 1972.

9. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

9.1. There are no impacts.

10. HEALTH & SAFETY IMPACT

10.1. There are no impacts.

11. PROPERTY & ESTATES IMPACT

11.1. There are no impacts

12. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) / SOCIAL VALUE

12.1. There are no impacts.

13. CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT/SOCIAL VALUE

13.1. There are no impacts.

14. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT

14.1. There are no impacts.

15. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT

15.1. There are no impacts.

16. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION / DATA PROTECTION CONSIDERATIONS

16.1. There are no impacts.

CONTACT OFFICER:

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None