

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee
<b>DATE</b>	27 June 2024
<b>EXEMPT</b>	No
<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>	No
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	Internal Audit Annual Report
<b>REPORT NUMBER</b>	IA/24/010
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	N/A
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	Jamie Dale
<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE</b>	2.3

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with Internal Audit's Annual Report for 2023/24.

### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 2.1 Note the Annual Report for 2023/24;
- 2.2 Note that the Chief Internal Auditor has confirmed the organisational independence of Internal Audit;
- 2.3 Note that there has been no limitation to the scope of Internal Audit work during 2023/24; and
- 2.4 Note the outcome of Internal Audit's self-assessment against the requirements of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.
- 2.5 Note the content of Internal Audit's Quality Assurance and Improvement Plan.

### 3. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES

- 3.1 Public Sector Internal Audit Standards require that Internal Audit produce an annual report on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's framework of governance, risk management and control. It

is one of the functions of the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee to review the activities of the Internal Audit function, including its annual work programme.

- 3.2 This report is designed to meet three objectives; to present to the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee, and through them, the Council:
- A formal opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's arrangements for:
    - Governance
    - Risk management
    - Internal control
  - A narrative over the key strategic and thematic findings from the assurance work undertaken by IA during 2023/24, drawing out key lessons to be learned.
  - An account of the assurance activities and resources of IA during the period 2023/24.

- 3.3 This report covers the period from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 and any work finalised during the 2023/24 assurance period. It also takes account of work undertaken up to the date of the issue of this report. The report is grounded in the whole activity and work of IA, whether in terms of formal audit evidence and work, management assurance and consultancy activity, or evidence gathered throughout wider engagement across the Council.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

#### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

#### **6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK**

- 6.1 The Internal Audit process considers risks involved in the areas subject to review. Any risk implications identified through the Internal Audit process are detailed in the resultant Internal Audit reports. Recommendations are made to address the identified risks and Internal Audit follows up progress with implementing those that are agreed with management. Those not implemented by their agreed due date are detailed in the attached appendices.

#### **7. OUTCOMES**

- 7.1 There are no direct impacts, as a result of this report, in relation to the Council Delivery Plan, or the Local Outcome Improvement Plan Themes of Prosperous Economy, People or Place.

7.2 However, Internal Audit plays a key role in providing assurance over, and helping to improve, the Council's framework of governance, risk management and control. These arrangements, put in place by the Council, help ensure that the Council achieves its strategic objectives in a well-managed and controlled environment.

**8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS**

<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
<b>Impact Assessment</b>	An assessment is not required because the reason for this report is to report Internal Audit's progress to Committee. As a result, there will be no differential impact, as a result of the proposals in this report, on people with protected characteristics.
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>	Not required

**9. APPENDICES**

9.1 Appendix A – Internal Audit Annual Report for the year ended 31 March 2024.

**10. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS**

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