

Chairs Report of the Audit & Risk Committee – 16 February 2015

Quarterly Risk Report – this report looked at the new risks that had been identified between October and December 2014.

Internal Audit Quarterly Reports on progress and recommendations - relating to Quarter 3 were presented to the Committee. Members expressed their concerns with regards to the audit that had been completed in respect of the Council's Website which had received an assurance opinion of 'poorly controlled' and it was requested that a detailed action plan be brought back to the next meeting of the Committee which is scheduled for April 2015.

Internal Audit Plan 2015/16 – the Internal Audit Plan for 2015/16 was presented to the committee. The Plan for 2015/16 provides for 500 audit days, and is based on a full risk assessment of each audit area which considers expenditure, income, management controls, operational practices, political and legislative influences and the risk of fraud. A number of new areas have been identified for review during 2015/16; these include Safeguarding, Locality Commissioning, The Transparency Agenda and Ethical Governance.

As part of this report the Audit Manager also provided the committee with an update in relation to a new audit management system that will be implemented during 2015/16. The new system will provide a new and efficient way of working for the Internal Audit Service in that the system is fully integrated with the capability of automatically producing an audit report from the compilation of audit working papers; in addition the system provides an automated recommendation tracking facility.

External Audit Reports – Grant Thornton presented two reports one in relation to the Certification work that is undertaken in relation to the Housing Benefit Subsidy Grant and the second was a general update in relation to the progress on their work in relation to the final accounts