

Committee: Audit and Scrutiny	Date: 7 March 2023
Subject: Internal Audit Progress Report 2022/23	Wards Affected: All
Report of: Tim Willis, Interim Director Resources and Section 151 Officer	Public
Report Author/s: Tim Willis, Interim Director Resources and Section 151 Officer Telephone: 07870 863270 E-mail: Tim.Willis@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk	For Information

Summary

This report is intended to inform the Audit and Scrutiny Committee of progress made against the 2022/23 internal audit plan.

The following report has been finalised since the last Committee:

- Cyber security audit (Moderate/Moderate)

Main Report

Introduction and Background

1. This report is intended to inform the Audit and Scrutiny Committee of progress made against the 2022/23 internal audit plan. It summarises the work internal audit have done, together with their assessment of the systems reviewed and the recommendations they have raised.
2. Their work complies with Public Sector Internal Audit Standards. As part of their audit approach, they have agreed terms of reference for each piece of work with the risk owner, identifying the headline and sub-risks, which have been covered as part of the assignment. This approach is designed to enable them to give assurance on the risk management and internal control processes in place to mitigate the risks identified.
3. The Audit Committee approved the 2022/23 outline summary audit plan in July 2022 and the full audit plan was presented as a separate agenda item for the Audit and Scrutiny Committee meeting in September 2022 and November 2022. The progress against plan is reported at every Audit and Scrutiny Committee during 2022/23.

Issue, Options and Analysis of Options

4. The following report has been finalised since the last Committee:

- Cyber security audit (Moderate/Moderate)

The conclusion of the audit is as follows:

Cyber security audit (Moderate/Moderate)

5. The Council has effective processes in place for the monitoring of its infrastructure in addition to responding to cyber incidents and threats by working proactively with its managed service provider, Hytec. However, potential risks and vulnerabilities should be identified, escalated and addressed in a timely manner. Improvements are also required to ensure that policies and processes are robust, accurately documented and communicated to staff.

We have raised one high priority, one medium priority and two low priority recommendations to improve the Council's cyber security controls and procedures.

Consequently, we conclude moderate assurance over the design of the Council's cyber security controls as well as their operational effectiveness.

6. A Summary of outstanding Recommendations from previous audits are included in Appendix B – Follow up report.
7. This is regularly monitored by Senior Officers and will be followed up again ahead of the next Audit and Scrutiny Committee, along with other recommendations due by 31 May 2023.

Consultation

Not applicable.

References to Corporate Strategy

To ensure the Council is effective and efficient by delivering services that are value for money and meet the needs of our residents.

Implications

Financial Implications

Name/Title: Tim Willis, Interim Director Resources and Section 151 Officer.

Tel/Email: 07870 863270 / tim.willis@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications

Name & Title: Claire Mayhew, Corporate Manager (Democratic Services) and Deputy Monitoring Officer

Tel & Email: 01277 312500/claire.mayhew@brentwood.gov.uk

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Economic Implications

Name/Title: Phil Drane, Director of Place

Tel/Email: 01277 312500/philip.drane@brentwood.gov.uk

There are no direct economic implications arising from this report.

Background Papers

None

Appendices to this report

Appendix A: Internal Audit Progress Report

Appendix B: Internal Audit Follow Up Report