

Informal Joint Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee



Forest Heath
District Council

Title of Report:	Mid-Year Internal Audit Progress Report 2015/16	
Report No:	PAS/FH/15/028	
Report to and date/s:	Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee	25 November 2015
Portfolio holder:	Steven Edwards Portfolio Holder for Resources and Performance Tel: 01638 660518 Email: steven.edwards@forest-heath.gov.uk	
Lead officer:	Jon Snares Service Manager (Internal Audit) Tel: 01284 757239 Email: jon.snares@westsuffolk.gov.uk	
Purpose of report:	This report advises Members of the work of the Internal Audit Section for the first half of 2015/16 and gives Members a flavour of the variety of corporate projects and activities which are supported through the work of the team. The report also provides an update on progress made against the 2015/16 Internal Audit Plan previously approved by this committee.	
Recommendation:	It is <u>RECOMMENDED</u> that Members are asked to note the contents of this report, including progress made against the 2015/16 Internal Audit Plan.	
Key Decision: (Check the appropriate box and delete all those that do not apply.)	<i>Is this a Key Decision and, if so, under which definition?</i> Yes, it is a Key Decision - <input type="checkbox"/> No, it is not a Key Decision - <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Consultation:		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Internal Audit Plan was compiled in consultation with the Head of Resources and Performance (as S151 Officer), Leadership Team, and the external auditors; and Consultation with key officers is also carried out during the audit process and in the production of individual internal audit reports and follow up work. 	
Alternative option(s):		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 	
Implications:			
Are there any financial implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Are there any staffing implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Are there any ICT implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Are there any legal and/or policy implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Are there any equality implications? <i>If yes, please give details</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Risk/opportunity assessment:		<i>(potential hazards or opportunities affecting corporate, service or project objectives)</i>	
Risk area	Inherent level of risk (before controls)	Controls	Residual risk (after controls)
Internal controls within the council may not be efficient and effective and as a result the council may not be identifying significant weaknesses that could impact on the achievement of the council's priorities and/or lead to fraud, financial loss or inefficiency.	Medium	Members receive and approve the Internal Audit Plan and receive a progress report during the year. The Audit Plan is based on an assessment of risk for each system or operational area. External Audit reviews the work of Internal Audit and internal control arrangements.	Low
Ward(s) affected:		N/A	
Background papers: <i>(all background papers are to be published on the website and a link included)</i>		N/A	
Documents attached:		Appendix A – Mid-Year Internal Audit Progress Report 2015/16	

1. Key issues and reasons for recommendation

1.1 Background Information

1.1.1 The Public Sector Internal Audit Standards require the Service Manager (Internal Audit) to report periodically to senior management and committee on Internal Audit's performance relative to its Audit Plan. Reporting should also include significant risk exposures and control issues where relevant, including fraud risks and governance issues. The Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee is the designated committee to receive these periodic reports.

1.1.2 The purpose of this report is to update Members on progress made against the 2015/16 Audit Plan (approved by this committee in June 2015), and also provide a flavour of the work undertaken in the year to date.