

**AUDIT COMMITTEE
16 September 2020**

ITEM NO.

AUDIT SERVICES – ACTIVITY REPORT

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide Members with a progress report of activity and proposed activity for the next period.

Summary

2. The report outlines progress to date on audit assignment work, consultancy/contingency activity.

Recommendation

3. It is recommended that the activity and results be noted.

Reasons

4. The recommendation is supported to provide the Audit Committee with evidence to reflect on the Council's governance arrangements.

**Andrew Barber
Audit & Risk Manager**

Background Papers

- (i) Internal Audit Charter
- (ii) Departmental Audit Reports

Andrew Barber: Extension 156176

S17 Crime and Disorder	Other than any special investigation work there is no crime and disorder impact.
Health and Well Being	There is no specific health and well being impact.
Carbon Impact	There is no specific carbon impact.
Diversity	There is no specific diversity impact.
Wards Affected	All wards are affected equally.
Groups Affected	All groups are affected equally.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not affect the budget or policy framework.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	There is no specific relevance to the strategy beyond a reflection on the Council's governance arrangements.
Efficiency	There is no specific efficiency impact.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

5. Members will be aware of a change in approach from traditional audit assignments to individual control testing and reporting. This requires a different approach in terms of reporting on activity and this will be developed further in the coming months. Additionally there is a move away from annual audit planning to quarterly planning to enable the service to respond more effectively to the changing risk environment.
6. The report should be considered in the context of fulfilling the function to monitor the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's internal control environment and the Internal Audit service provided.
7. Appendix 1 provides members with detailed feedback on the performance of the service and the position in relation to completion of audit work. COVID-19 has brought challenges to the Authority and has quite rightly been the focus for a number of service areas. Audit advice has been provided as required and time has been spent transitioning to the new ways of working. Testing has however been undertaken and good progress has been made to date.
8. The audit team is currently at full capacity with sufficient resource available to deliver testing against the current risk assessment.

9. In line with good practice, at an appropriate time, Audit Services follow up with Managers progress on implementation of audit recommendations agreed as part of audit work.
10. The Shared Service has also responded to routine requests from Groups for advice and guidance on operational matters.

Outcome of Consultation

11. There was no formal consultation undertaken in production of this report.

INTERNAL AUDIT AUDIT COMMITTEE UPDATE REPORT

2020/21

Results to Date

Very Low			Low			Medium			High			Very High		
R	A	G	R	A	G	R	A	G	R	A	G	R	A	G
0	1	2	0	0	9	0	4	10	0	1	5	0	1	3

Planned Work Next Period

	Very Low	Low	Medium	High	Very High
DBC	3	19	15	13	3
SBC	1	11	27	18	5

Minimum Resources Required : 396
 Resources Available: 412

