

Meeting:	Audit and Governance Committee
Meeting date:	8 November 2023
Report of:	Head of Internal Audit
Portfolio of:	Cllr Lomas Executive Member for Finance, Performance, Major Projects, Human Rights, Equality and Inclusion

Audit and Governance Committee Report:

Audit & Counter Fraud Progress Report

Subject of Report

1. This report provides an update on the delivery of the internal audit work programme for 2023/24 and on counter fraud activity undertaken so far in the year.
2. It also informs members of the outcome of Veritau's recent external quality assessment.

Policy Basis

3. The work of internal audit is governed by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS). In accordance with the standards, periodic reports on internal audit work are presented to this committee.
4. The work of internal audit and counter fraud helps to support overall aims and priorities by promoting probity, integrity, and accountability and by helping to make the Council a more effective organisation.

Recommendation and Reasons

5. Members are asked to:

- a) Note the progress made in delivering the 2023/24 internal audit work programme, and current counter fraud activity.

Reason

To enable members to consider the implications of internal audit and fraud findings.

- b) Note the 'generally conforms' outcome of Veritau's recent external quality assessment.

Reason

To enable members to fulfil their responsibility for overseeing the performance of internal audit.

Background

Internal Audit

6. The 2023/24 internal audit work programme was approved by this committee at its meeting on 15 March 2023.
7. Annex 1 to this report provides an update on progress made against the 2023/24 internal audit work programme. This includes a summary of current work in progress and revised internal audit priorities for the year. It also updates members on the outcome of the internal audit function's recent external quality assessment, the full report from which is contained in annex 2.

Counter Fraud

8. The counter fraud progress report is contained in annex 3. It reports on progress against the counter fraud work programme. A range of work is detailed including activity to promote awareness of fraud, work with external agencies, and information on the level of fraud reported to date.

Consultation Analysis

9. Not relevant for the purpose of the report.

Risks and Mitigations

10. The council will be non-compliant with the PSIAS if the performance of the internal audit function, and the results of its work, are not reported to the committee and could therefore be exposed to increased levels of scrutiny and challenge.

Contact details

For further information please contact the authors of this Report.

Author

Name:	Max Thomas
Job Title:	Head of Internal Audit
Service Area:	Veritau Limited
Telephone:	01904 552940
Report approved:	Yes
Date:	27 October 2023

Background papers

Internal Audit and Counter Fraud Work Programmes 2023/24
[Agenda for Audit and Governance Committee on Wednesday, 15 March 2023, 5.30 pm \(york.gov.uk\)](#) item 48

Annexes

- Annex 1: Internal Audit progress report
- Annex 2: Veritau EQA final report 2023
- Annex 3: Counter Fraud progress report
- Exempt Annex 4: ICT remote access internal audit report
- Exempt Annex 5: Data breach management internal audit report
- Exempt Annex 6: Risk management internal audit report
- Exempt Annex 7: Insurance internal audit report