

Thurrock Council

Standards & Audit Committee

Internal Audit Progress Report 2022/23

Date of Committee: 23rd February 2023

Introduction

The internal audit plan for 2022/23 was presented to the Standards & Audit Committee on 10th March 2022.

Table showing reports issued as Final, in Draft and Work in Progress (WIP)

Assignment	Status	Opinion	Actions Agreed (by priority)		
			High	Medium	Low
Audits to address specific risks					
Housing Voids	Final	Green	0	2	1
Taxi Licencing	Draft	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Register of Gifts, Interests and Hospitality	Draft	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Council Tax	WIP	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Temporary Accommodation	WIP	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Work and other issues for which no reports are generated

Following on from the resourcing issues reported to the Standards and Audit Committee at the meeting held on 24th November 2022, we are pleased to report that 1 successful candidate has been interviewed and accepted one of the two Senior Internal Auditor positions on 23rd January 2023. This candidate must give 3 months' notice so should be able to start towards the end of April. The recruitment team continue to try and fill the other vacant post.

In addition, as members of the APEX framework agreement with Croydon Council, we have now contacted our new client liaison Director for this contract with a view to using Mazars to provide resources in the short-term, until we can recruit into the vacant post.

One of the new Internal Auditors has been provided with training and support and is now undertaking the work on the Supporting Families Programme (previously Troubled Families Programme) to verify payment by results claims prior to their submission to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

Following the issuing of the Section 114 notice in December 2022, the council have had to form a number of panels to look at, and challenge where appropriate, all expenditure, including one-time payments, requisitions, travel and subsistence, credit card payments etc. This is being carried out through Directorate Panels, an Expenditure Control Panel and a Strategic Panel. The Directorate Panels are tasked at challenging all spend within their own directorates. If the spend is in excess of £500 but under £25,000, it then needs to go to the Expenditure Control Panel. If it exceeds £25,000 then it goes to the Strategic Panel. The Chief Internal Auditor is a member of the Expenditure Control Panel which meets every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Changes to the Annual Plan

There are no changes to the current plan.