

INTERNAL AUDIT GOVERNANCE & RISK
WDA/39/11

Recommendation

That:

1. Members note the contents of the reports from the Internal Auditor

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Report of the Treasurer

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The Authority is required to maintain an effective Internal Audit as a part of its statutory governance arrangements. The Authority's Internal Audit is provided by St Helens Council. The Auditor reviews the arrangements at the Authority and reports to Members on any weaknesses and recommends improvements. This report brings to Members attentions the outcome of the latest reviews.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Internal Auditor has reported on the:
- Review of Performance Management, Risk Management and Governance Arrangements; and
 - A follow up of the report on the Review of Contract Arrangements
- 2.2 The detailed reports are attached at Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 to this report.

3. Review of Performance Management, Risk Management and Governance Arrangements

- 3.1 As a part of the Audit Plan the Auditor reviewed the Authority's governance arrangements in particular the:-
- Robustness and accuracy of the Performance Management System;
 - The approach to Risk Management;
 - Production of the Annual Governance Statement
- 3.2 The Auditor concluded that appropriate controls were in place and operating effectively. No key matters were drawn to the attention of Members for their consideration and there were no recommendations needed to strengthen controls.

4. Follow up of Contract Arrangements

4.1 The Auditor reviewed the Authority's Contract arrangements and reported on the outcome of the review in July 2010. At the time the Auditor made three recommendations for improvements. As a part of the agreed Audit plan this year the Auditor has followed up on the Authority's progress in implementing the agreed recommendations. The Auditor concluded that the Authority has taken appropriate actions to ensure the recommendations are implemented and the improvements to controls are made.

5. Risk Implications

5.1 There are no new risks arising from the auditors review

6. HR Implications

6.1 There are no new HR implications

7. Environmental Implications

7.1 There are no new environmental implications

8. Financial Implications

8.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report

9. Conclusion

9.1 Internal Audit reviews the Authority's governance arrangements. The recent review confirmed that arrangements were appropriate. The follow up of an earlier review confirmed that appropriate actions had taken place. Members are asked to note the reports.

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The background documents to this report are open to inspection in accordance with Section 100D of The Local Government Act 1972 - Nil.