

INTERNAL AUDIT - CORPORATE GOVERNANCE
WDA/31/16

Recommendation

That:

1. Members note the contents of the report 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 review.

2. Background

2.1 The agreed audit plan for the year included a review of the Authority's corporate governance arrangements to provide an assessment of the adequacy of the control environment, to ensure that objectives are achieved and risks are adequately managed.

2.2 The review considered:

- The Governance framework;
- Ethics and Values;
- Risk Management; and
- The Annual Governance Statement.

2.3 The auditor's detailed report is attached at Appendix 1 to this report.

3. Review of Corporate Governance

3.1 The Auditor concluded that in their overall opinion high assurance could be taken from the system and the way it was operated. This means that:

"all expected controls are in place and being applied consistently and effectively and there is a sound system of control designed to ensure the achievement of the service or system's business objectives".

3.2 The auditor has confirmed there are no Key Issues arising from this review to bring to the attention of Members.

3.3 The auditor has made one recommendation for improvements as a consequence of the review; this relates to ensuring the framework is maintained by reference to the latest CIPFA/SOLACE guidance for published in 2016. This recommendation is fully accepted and agreed by officers.

4. Risk Implications

4.1 There are no new risks arising from the auditor's review

5. HR Implications

5.1 There are no new HR implications

6. Environmental Implications

6.1 There are no new environmental implications

7. Financial Implications

7.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report

8. Legal Implications

8.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

9. Conclusion

9.1 Internal Audit reviewed the Authority's corporate governance arrangements. The recent review confirmed that Members have Internal Audit's highest level of assurance that the Authority's corporate governance arrangements were appropriate. There are no Key Issues for Members. Members are asked to note the report.

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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.