

Report to:	Audit and Governance Committee	Date of Meeting:	Wednesday 15 December 2021
Subject:	Risk and Audit Service Performance		
Report of:	Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

This report details the performance and key activities of the Risk and Audit Service for the period 8 September 2021 to 7 December 2021.

Recommendation(s):

(1) Note the progress in the delivery of the 2021/22 Internal Audit Plans and the activity undertaken for the period 8 September 2021 to 7 December 2021.

(2) Note the contributions made by the Health and Safety, Insurance, Assurance and Risk and Resilience teams in managing the Council's key risks

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

Approval of the recommendations will facilitate the continued provision of a comprehensive and effective Risk and Audit Service.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

Failure to provide an update on the progress, in particular, of the Internal Audit Service would be a breach of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs - There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. However, the Council benefits from the work of the section in reducing the impact and likelihood (and so the cost) of risk.

(B) Capital Costs – There are no capital costs associated with the report.

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets): There are no resource implications arising from the report however the report does discuss the current activities to recruit temporary Internal Audit Team members within the existing budgets.	
Legal Implications: There are no legal implications	
Equality Implications: There are no equality implications.	
Climate Emergency Implications:	
The recommendations within this report will	
Have a positive impact	Y/N
Have a neutral impact	Y/N
Have a negative impact	Y/N
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Y/N
<p>The Risk and Audit Team in line with Council and Government guidance during the lockdown and afterwards has been working from home with the exception of the Health and Safety Team who undertake periodic inspections of Council buildings to provide guidance and support.</p> <p>The working from home has reduced the teams commuting and as a consequence Carbon footprint. The revised working practices will continue with the proposed Council agile working although the footprint will slightly increase at this point as staff move to the one day per week in the office. There is currently no visibility when agile working will be introduced by the Council.</p> <p>We are currently exploring with the Council's insurers and broker their actions to reduce Climate Change which we will respond on in future reports following renewal when the information is available.</p>	

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

<p>Protect the most vulnerable: Providing an effective assurance service and assisting with the embedding of risk management within the service areas delivering the Council's core purpose will help to ensure that the appropriate risks and controls are identified and in the case of controls are operating as designed. This approach will help to ensure that the Core Purpose is delivered.</p>
<p>Facilitate confident and resilient communities: Providing an effective assurance service and assisting with the embedding of risk management within the service areas</p>

delivering the Council's core purpose will help to ensure that the appropriate risks and controls are identified and in the case of controls are operating as designed. This approach will help to ensure that the Core Purpose is delivered.

Commission, broker and provide core services: Providing an effective assurance service and assisting with the embedding of risk management within the service areas delivering the Council's core purpose will help to ensure that the appropriate risks and controls are identified and in the case of controls are operating as designed. This approach will help to ensure that the Core Purpose is delivered.

Place – leadership and influencer: Providing an effective assurance service and assisting with the embedding of risk management within the service areas delivering the Council's core purpose will help to ensure that the appropriate risks and controls are identified and in the case of controls are operating as designed. This approach will help to ensure that the Core Purpose is delivered.

Drivers of change and reform: Providing an effective assurance service and assisting with the embedding of risk management within the service areas delivering the Council's core purpose will help to ensure that the appropriate risks and controls are identified and in the case of controls are operating as designed. This approach will help to ensure that the Core Purpose is delivered.

Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: Providing an effective assurance service and assisting with the embedding of risk management within the service areas delivering the Council's core purpose will help to ensure that the appropriate risks and controls are identified and in the case of controls are operating as designed. This approach will help to ensure that the Core Purpose is delivered.

Greater income for social investment: Providing an effective assurance service and assisting with the embedding of risk management within the service areas delivering the Council's core purpose will help to ensure that the appropriate risks and controls are identified and in the case of controls are operating as designed. This approach will help to ensure that the Core Purpose is delivered.

Cleaner Greener: Providing an effective assurance service and assisting with the embedding of risk management within the service areas delivering the Council's core purpose will help to ensure that the appropriate risks and controls are identified and in the case of controls are operating as designed. This approach will help to ensure that the Core Purpose is delivered.

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.6632/21) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.4833/21) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

None

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Committee meeting.

(Please delete as appropriate and remove this text)

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Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

- Risk and Audit Service Performance Report

Background Papers:

The following background papers, which are not available elsewhere on the Internet can be accessed on the Council website:

- Internal Audit Plan 201/22 (as approved by this Committee on 17 March 2021)

1. Introduction

1.1 The Risk and Audit Service is managed by the Chief Internal Auditor, who reports to the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services through the Finance Service Manager.

1.2 The mission of the service is “to deliver a first-class risk and audit service that is highly respected and valued by Sefton and is the envy of our peers”.

1.3 The Service has the following objectives:

- To lead the Council in embedding a system of internal control and risk management that facilitates the achievement of the organisation’s objectives.
- To be a valued corporate influence in promoting the due consideration of risk in Council decisions, strategies and plans.
- To align the service with the Council’s changing needs.

1.4 In delivering this mission and objectives, the Service encapsulates the following teams:

- Internal Audit
- Health and Safety
- Insurance
- Risk and Resilience
- Assurance

- 1.5 This report summarises the main aspects of the performance of the Service during the period 8 September 2021 – 7 December 2021, and gives members a detailed overview of the following areas:
- Internal Audit:
 - o work undertaken in the period, including a summary of work and an outline of the high priority recommendations made
 - o performance against Key Performance Indicators
 - o developments relating to this part of the Service.
 - Health and Safety, Insurance, Assurance and Risk and Resilience:
 - o work undertaken in the period, with key data provided
 - o developments relating to these parts of the Service.
- 1.6 The report concludes by looking ahead to the forthcoming activities being undertaken by the service