

Internal Audit Annual Report and Opinion 2017/18

Head of Service: Gerry Cox, Chief Executive - SWAP
Lead Officer: Alastair Woodland - Assistant Director
Contact Details: Alastair.Woodland@southwestaudit.co.uk

Purpose of the Report

This report provides an update on the position of the Internal Audit Plan at the end of 2017/18 and also provides Internal Audit's overall Opinion on the systems of internal control at South Somerset District Council.

Recommendation

To note the Annual Opinion Report for 2017/18.

Background

The Audit Committee agreed the original 2017/18 Internal Audit Plan at its March 2017 meeting, with progress updates provided during the year.

SSDC S151 Officer Comments

The annual report and opinion of the Head of Internal Audit provides those charged with governance – including the Council's Senior Leadership Team and Members – with his conclusions from the work undertaken by South West Audit Partnership (SWAP) during the year.

I have appreciated the flexibility shown by SWAP in varying the audit plan during the year to support the needs of the Council's transformation programme and meet the requirements of emerging issues.

As shown in the Auditor's detailed report, the overall assurance provided is "**reasonable**". This is acceptable in terms of good governance, and it is recognised that some areas of control will need to be introduced or improved to address the recommendations provided.

The overall number of recommendations for actions has reduced compared to the previous year, reflecting progress and also the advisory nature of a significant proportion of the Audit Plan. It is pleasing to note that of the 18 recommendations for management actions arising from completed audit, only one is a Priority 4 "Important findings that need to be resolved by management", and there were no Priority 5 major issues requiring immediate attention. This reflects well on the level of controls being operated in the areas reviewed.

I would like to thank the Internal Audit team for their support to the Council's governance and assurance arrangements during the last year.

Background Papers

None
