

TITLE	Internal Audit and Investigation Q1 Progress Report
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Audit Committee on 28 September 2016
WARD	None Specific
DIRECTOR	Catherine Hickman, Service Manager – Shared Audit & Investigation Service (and Head of Internal Audit)

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

The Internal Audit and Investigations Progress Report details the work of the team from the 1 April 2016 to 30 June 2016. This is an update on the progress towards the formation of the Head of Internal Audit opinion which forms part of the Annual Governance Statement. It provides assurance through the Audit Committee to the Council and the wider public that the Council is managing its key risks and identifies any weaknesses identified in the governance, risk management and internal control environment. This assurance supports the Council in the achievement of its vision, priorities, principles and objectives and provides for better and improved outcomes for our residents.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Audit Committee note the Internal Audit and Investigation Progress Report.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

The report summarises the work completed by Internal Audit and Investigations during the period and enables the Committee to discharge its oversight function in relation to these activities.

The report provides the opportunity for the Service Manager, Shared Audit and Investigation Service to provide details of the work undertaken this financial year and highlight any areas of weakness the Committee should be aware of.

Background

This Progress Report fulfils two functions for the Audit Committee:

- It enables the committee to hold the Service Manager, Shared Audit and Investigation Service to account for the performance of internal audit and investigations.
- It facilitates the Audit Committee in holding management to account for managing weaknesses identified during the course of internal audit and investigation activities.

Analysis of Issues

The Audit Committee should ensure that it receives the coverage, performance and results of Internal Audit and Investigation activity and any other appropriate additional assurances.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	N/A	Yes	N/A
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	N/A	Yes	N/A
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	N/A	Yes	N/A

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

Not applicable

Cross-Council Implications

Not applicable

List of Background Papers

None

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