

TITLE	Internal Audit & Investigations Q3 Progress Report
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Audit Committee on 6 February 2019
WARD	None Specific
DIRECTOR	Deputy Chief Executive – Graham Ebers

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

Assurance on the work of the Internal Audit & Investigations service.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Audit Committee note the 2018/19 Internal Audit and Investigation Progress Report to the end of quarter 3 (attached).

SUMMARY OF REPORT

The Internal Audit and Investigation Progress Report details the work of the team from the 1 April 2018 to 31 December 2018. This is an update on the progress towards the formation of the Chief Audit Executive opinion which will contribute towards the 2018/19 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.

The report provides the opportunity for the Assistant Director, Governance (and Chief Audit Executive) 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 Assistant Director, Governance (and Chief Audit Executive) to account for the performance of internal audit and investigation.
- 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)	Nil	Yes	Revenue
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	Nil	Yes	Revenue
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	Nil	Yes	Revenue

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

None

Cross-Council Implications

The internal audit & investigations service covers all aspects of the Council's operations and governance.

List of Background Papers

None

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