

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – WEDNESDAY, 25
OCTOBER 2023



Title of Report	UPDATE ON ACTION PLAN IN RESPONSE TO ANNUAL INTERNAL AUDIT OPINION 2022/23	
Presented by	Paul Stone Director of Resources	
Background Papers	Management Response to Internal Audit Opinion 2022/23 – Audit & Governance Committee 26 July 2023 NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL	Public Report: Yes
Purpose of Report	This report provides an update on the findings of the Management Response to the Internal Audit Opinion 2022/23.	
Recommendations	THE COMMITTEE ARE RECOMMENDED TO: 1. NOTE THE PROGRESS AGAINST THE ACTIONS AGREED IN RESPONSE TO THE ANNUAL INTERNAL AUDIT OPINION 2022/23.	

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In accordance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIA) the Chief Audit Executive (the Internal Audit Manager at North West Leicestershire District Council) is required to produce an annual report. The report for the financial year 2022/23 was considered by the Audit and Governance Committee at its meeting on 26 July 2023, alongside details of the management response and action plan.
- 1.2 The Opinion describes the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the organisation's framework of governance, risk management and control. The Internal Audit Annual Opinion for 2022/23 is "Limited Assurance".
- 1.3 It was recognised that the level of assurance is not acceptable and that improvements were required. Therefore, an Action Plan was developed to address the concerns and issues raised.

2.0 UPDATES TO THE ACTION PLAN

- 2.1 In response to the Opinion and recognising the context within which the Opinion has been determined, Management are progressing a number of key actions. It was agreed at the Audit & Governance meeting on 26 July 2023 that status updates would be presented to future committee meetings.

2.2 A copy of the Action Plan and progress to date is presented at Appendix 1.

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	<p>Insert relevant Council Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supporting Coalville to be a more vibrant, family-friendly town - Support for businesses and helping people into local jobs - Developing a clean and green district - Local people live in high quality, affordable homes - Our communities are safe, healthy and connected
Policy Considerations:	Not applicable.
Safeguarding:	Not applicable.
Equalities/Diversity:	Not applicable.
Customer Impact:	Not applicable.
Economic and Social Impact:	Not applicable.
Environment, Climate Change and Zero Carbon:	Not applicable.
Consultation/Community/Tenant Engagement:	In developing the Action Plan there has been extensive engagement with statutory officers, the Corporate Leadership Team and the Internal Audit Manager.
Risks:	The Council's governance arrangements are a critical part of its operations to ensure decision making is robust and effective. Internal audit is an important part of these governance arrangements. There are a number of risks to the Council if it does not have a properly functioning internal audit function. These potential risks include reputation, poor decision making, fraud, lack of control and inadequate assurance
Officer Contact	<p>Paul Stone Director of Resources paul.stone@nwleicestershire.gov.uk</p>