



Report to Audit and Governance Committee

Date:	27 September 2022
Title:	Chief Auditor Annual Audit Opinion 2021/22
Relevant councillor(s):	Cllr Richard Newcombe
Author and/or contact officer:	Maggie Gibb, Head of Business Assurance (& Chief Auditor)
Ward(s) affected:	N/A
Recommendations:	To note the Chief Auditor's Annual Internal Audit Report for 2021/22 and the overall 'reasonable' opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's governance, risk management and internal control environment for 2021/22
Reason for decision:	N/A

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 To present to Members the Chief Internal Auditor annual assurance opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's internal control environment, risk management and corporate governance arrangements in place during the year.

2. Content of report

- 2.1 The Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) established in 2013 and revised in 2017 are the agreed professional standards for internal audit in local government. PSIAS was the Code under which the Internal Audit Service operated during 2021/2022. It sets out the requirement for the Chief Internal Auditor ("Chief Audit Executive") to report to Senior Management and the Audit Committee ("The Board") to help inform their opinions on the effectiveness of the Internal Control environment in operation within the Council.

- 2.2 This Chief Internal Auditor's annual internal audit opinion is based on an objective assessment of the framework of governance, risk management and control. Consulting services are advisory in nature and are generally performed at the specific request of the organisation, with the aim of improving governance, risk management and control but still contribute to the overall opinion however each review does not deliver individual assurance opinions.
- 2.3 The annual internal audit opinion contributes to the completion of the Annual Governance Statement (AGS). It is specifically scheduled to be considered as part of the Council's annual review of governance and internal control.
- 2.4 No system of internal control can provide absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss, nor can internal audit give absolute assurance.

3. Other options considered

- 3.1 N/A.

4. Legal and financial implications

- 4.1 None

5. Corporate implications

- 5.1 None

6. Local councillors & community boards consultation & views

- 6.1 N/A

7. Communication, engagement & further consultation

- 7.1 N/A

8. Next steps and review

- 8.1 N/A

9. Background papers

- 9.1 2021/22 Business Assurance Strategy and Internal Audit Plan and 2021/22 Internal Audit reports.

10. Your questions and views (for key decisions)

- 10.1 If you have any questions about the matters contained in this report please get in touch with the author of this report. If you have any views that you would like the cabinet member to consider please inform the democratic services team. This can be done by telephone 01296 382343 or email democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

