

INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT

Corporate Director (Resources)

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To report Internal Audit progress to the Audit Committee.

2 Recommendations/for decision

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to review and note the contents of the report.

3 Supporting information

- 3.1 Internal Audit reviews the internal control and assurance mechanisms of the Council and produces formal Audit reports with recommendations intended to improve controls. Internal Audit will regularly report on the progress of its work to the Committee.

4 Audit Work

- 4.1 A full list of the Final Audit Reports agreed and issued during the current financial year was circulated to the Committee as Appendix C to the Audit Committee Briefing Note issued in November 2008.
- 4.2 There are a number of reviews in progress at the time of writing. These include a report on operation of the concessionary travel scheme and one on BACS payments.
- 4.3 An update on data preparation for the National Fraud Initiative (NFI) was provided in the Briefing Note previously circulated to Members. The next deadline is the provision of Electoral Roll and Council Tax information which has been requested in December. Following the changes in the law initiated by the Audit Commission this year, a new opinion has been requested from the Council's Monitoring Officer as to how AVDC should respond to these requests.
- 4.4 Publicity about NFI is being co-ordinated by Communications and Marketing. Staff have been informed of the exercise by an article in Byline and a short article was included in the latest edition of District Link.
- 4.5 We have also started joint working with other Councils in the area. Staff from AVDC are reviewing areas at other Councils and their auditors are working on some Audits from our Audit plan. Initially four audits have been identified at each Council. When these are complete a review will be undertaken to assess the success of the experiment and determine whether it should be repeated. The review will also identify any lessons learned which will improve any future joint working projects.
- 4.6 The Audit of AVDC's Payroll service will be a joint audit with resources provided by all Councils who use the AVDC service. This will be co-ordinated by AVDC and is due to start in December 2008.

5 Reasons for Recommendation

5.1 One of the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice for Internal Audit in Local Government is that regular progress reports are provided to the Audit Committee.

6 Resource implications

6.1 None.

7 Response to Key Aims and Objectives

7.1 None.

Contact Officer
Background Documents

Val Hinkins 01296 585343
Audit Briefing Note – November 2008, District Link November 2008