



Audit and Governance Committee

Date:	28 July 2021
Reference number:	N/A
Title:	2021/22 Business Assurance Strategy Update (incl. Internal Audit Plan)
Cabinet Member(s):	N/A
Contact officer:	Maggie Gibb, Head of Business Assurance (& Chief Auditor)
Ward(s) affected:	N/A
Recommendations:	Members are recommended to note the report
Reason for decision:	N/A

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to present the 2021/22 Business Assurance Strategy update, including progress against the Internal Audit Plan.
- 1.2 The 2021/22 Internal Audit Plan has been reviewed to identify the key audit activities to be delivered in quarter one and two; considering the priorities within the Directorates and working around the service reviews that are currently in progress.

2. Content of report

- 2.1 The Business Assurance Strategy; including the Internal Audit Plan was agreed by the Audit Board and by the Audit and Governance Committee in June 2021. The Internal Audit Plan was produced with reference to the Strategic and Directorate Risk Registers; and informed through discussion with the Senior Leadership Teams for each Directorate, Heads of Finance, Section 151 Officer and the Deputy Chief Executive.

- 2.2 The Internal Audit Plan has continued to be dynamic in nature with activity reviewed and realigned on a regular basis to take account of new, emerging and changing risks and priorities. We continue to be mindful of the risk of Covid-19 impacting the delivery of the approved plan, however through regular review the activities will be re-prioritised following consultation with Senior Leadership Teams and agreement via the Audit Board.
- 2.3 Quarterly Business Assurance updates are presented to each Directorate Leadership Team providing updates on the planned audit and assurance activity, which are reviewed for appropriateness each time. We also seek the views of the directorates on the work of the Business Assurance Team to enable continuous improvement and ensure that we are meeting the needs and expectations of the organisation as best we can.
- 2.4 Progress against strategy has been presented to, and agreed by, the Audit Board (S151 Officer, Monitoring Officer and Director of Legal Services).

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 An update on delivery of the Business Assurance Strategy and a summary of the internal audit output will be presented as a standing agenda item at Audit and Governance Committee meetings.

9. Background papers

9.1 None.

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.