

**Open Report on behalf of Andrew Crookham, Executive Director -
Resources**

Report to:	Audit Committee
Date:	18 November 2019
Subject:	Internal Audit Progress Report

Summary:

The purpose of this report is to:

- Provide details of the audit work completed 1st September to 28th October 2019
- Advise on progress of the 2019/20 plan
- Raise any other matters that may be relevant to the Audit Committee role

Recommendation(s):

That the Committee note the outcomes of Internal Audit's work and identify any necessary actions that need to be taken.

Background

This paper covers the period September and October 2019 and reports on progress made our audit plans.

Our progress report is attached in appendix A and shows:

- Reports issued
- Assurance opinions including a summary
- Benchmarking information in performance indicators
- Other matters of interest
- Audit schedule (priority reviews in progress)

Conclusion

During the period we have completed nine audits, which include six school audits. Delivery of the **revised audit plan is on schedule for the time of year at 26% complete**. Our external work is frontloaded to the beginning of the year with more LCC audits scheduled between October and March 2020.

Follow up of outstanding actions show that 9 high and 21 medium priority actions remain unresolved after their agreed due date has passed. Revised completion dates have been given and we can confirm that management are making progress on implementing improvements for all but one audit area – which has paused given changes in personnel.

Changes to the Internal Audit Plan have been proposed – these are due to a variety of reasons but we don't anticipate this to adversely affect the Head of Internal Audit's annual opinion 2020.

Audit Resources – the level of audit resources are less than anticipated at the beginning of the year, which has also impacted upon the delivery of the internal audit plan. A recruitment process is about to commence for a senior auditor and apprentice.

Consultation

a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

No

b) Risks and Impact Analysis

Internal Audit plays a key role in the Council's governance and assurance arrangements. Delivery of the Internal Audit Plan supports the ability of the Head of Internal Audit to provide an independent annual opinion on the Council's governance, risk and control environment and how much it can be relied upon.

Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Internal Audit Progress Report

Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Lucy Pledge, who can be contacted on 01522 553692 or lucy.pledge@lincolnshire.gov.uk .