

Somerset West and Taunton Council

Audit and Governance Committee – 13 March 2023

SWAP Internal Audit – Annual Opinion Report 2022/23

This matter is the responsibility of Executive Councillor Benet Allen, Portfolio Holder for Communications and Corporate Resources

Report Author: Alastair Woodland, Assistant Director, SWAP

1 Executive Summary / Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The Internal Audit function plays a central role in corporate governance by providing assurance to the Annual Audit and Governance Committee, looking over financial controls and checking on the probity of the organisation.
- 1.2 The 2022-23 Annual Audit Plan provided independent and objective assurance on SWT Internal Control Environment. This work supported the Annual Governance Statement.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the Annual Opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control environment in the delivery of SWT objectives.

3 Risk Assessment

- 3.1 Any large organisation needs to have a well-established and systematic risk management framework in place to identify and mitigate the risks it may face. SWT has a risk management framework, and within that, individual internal audit reports deal with the specific risk issues that arise from the findings. These are translated into mitigating actions and timetables for management to implement.

4 Background and Full details of the Report

- 4.1 This report summarises the work of the Council's Internal Audit Service and provides:
 - A summary of the key risks that were identified during the 2022-23 financial year.
 - A schedule of audits completed during the period, detailing their respective assurance opinion rating, the number of recommendations and the respective priority rankings of these.

4.2 The Audit Opinion for 2022/23 is contained within the attached SWAP Internal Audit Annual Opinion Report.

5 Links to Corporate Strategy

5.1 Delivery of the corporate objectives requires strong internal control. The attached report provides a summary of the audit work carried out to date this year by the Council's internal auditors, SWAP Internal Audit Services.

6 Finance / Resource Implications

6.1 There are no specific finance issues relating to this report.

7 Legal Implications (if any)

7.1 There are no specific legal issues relating to this report.

8 Climate and Sustainability Implications (if any)

8.1 There are no direct implications from this report.

9 Safeguarding and/or Community Safety Implications (if any)

9.1 There are no direct implications from this report.

10 Equality and Diversity Implications (if any)

10.1 There are no direct implications from this report.

11 Social Value Implications (if any)

11.1 There are no direct implications from this report.

12 Partnership Implications (if any)

12.1 There are no direct implications from this report.

13 Health and Wellbeing Implications (if any)

13.1 There are no direct implications from this report.

14 Asset Management Implications (if any)

14.1 There are no direct implications from this report.

15 Data Protection Implications (if any)

15.1 There are no direct implications from this report.

16 Consultation Implications (if any)

16.1 There are no direct implications from this report.

17 Scrutiny Comments / Recommendation(s) (if any)

N/A

Democratic Path:

- **Corporate Governance and Standards Committees – Yes**
- **Cabinet/Executive – No**
- **Full Council – No**

Reporting Frequency: Quarterly

List of Appendices (delete if not applicable)

Appendix A	SWAP Internal Audit – Audit Opinion Report 2021/22
------------	--

Contact Officers

Name	Alastair Woodland
Direct Dial	07720 312467
Email	alastair.woodland@swapaudit.co.uk