

31st JULY 2024

INTERNAL AUDIT - ANNUAL AUDIT OPINION – 2023/24

SUMMARY:

This report presents the Internal Audit Managers independent annual audit opinion for 2023/24 on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's framework of governance, risk management and internal control environment.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Members are requested to:

- I. Note the Audit Opinion given for governance, risk management and internal control for 2023/24;
- II. Note the self-assessment exercise against the PSIAS and the improvement areas.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 In accordance with the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015, the Audit Manager is required to report, on an annual basis, on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of Rushmoor Borough Council's framework of governance, risk management and control (GRC).
- 1.2 The report in Appendix 1 sets out the internal audit work carried out within 2023/24 and the coverage of work carried out to enable the Audit Manager to form this opinion.
- 1.3 Furthermore, annually the Audit Manager is required to carry out a self-assessment on the internal audit activities conformance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) and communicate this to the Corporate Governance, Audit and Standards (CGAS) Committee. The report details the outcome of the self-assessment carried out.
- 1.4 The internal audit plan for 2023/24 was approved by this Committee on the 27th March 2023 (AUD23/02).

2 Audit Opinion

- 2.1 The report within Appendix 1 sets out the work which was relied upon in order to assist with the assessment and the level of assurance obtained for the Council's Internal Control, governance and risk management.

2.2 An assurance level has been provided to each of these areas in order to provide a clear assessment.

3 Conclusion

3.1 Sufficient assurance work has been completed within the year to enable an audit opinion to be provided on Rushmoor Borough Council's Governance, Risk Management, and Control framework.

3.2 Where weaknesses have been identified through internal audit review, we have worked with management to agree appropriate corrective actions and a timescale for improvement.

3.3 A self-assessment against the PSIAS showed that Internal Audit are compliant with the standards with some further enhancements set out.

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