



Audit Committee	Tuesday, 09 July 2024	Matter for Information
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Report Title: **Internal Audit Annual Report and Opinion (2023/24)**

Report Authors: **Sal Khan (Interim Strategic Director)**
Leanne Hawkes (360 Assurance Director)

Purpose of Report:	To provide the Committee with the Internal Auditors Annual Report and Opinion for 2023/24.
Report Summary:	<p>As part of the Council’s corporate governance arrangements, the Annual Internal Audit Report is submitted to the Audit Committee. The purpose of the report (at Appendix 1) is to report the key outcomes arising from the work of Internal Audit for 2023/24 and to provide an audit opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council’s arrangements for governance, risk management and internal control.</p> <p>The report states that “significant assurance” can be given to the Council as there is a generally sound framework of governance, risk management and control designed to meet the organisation’s objectives, and controls are generally being applied consistently.</p>
Recommendation(s):	That the report included on the audit opinion and the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council’s arrangements for governance, risk management and internal control (as set out at Appendix 1) be noted.
Senior Leadership, Head of Service, Manager, Officer and Other Contact(s):	<p>Sal Khan (Interim Strategic Director) (0116) 257 2635 sal.khan@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</p> <p>Leane Hawkes (360 Assurance Director) 07545 423040 leanne.hawkes@nhs.net</p> <p>Tracey Barnard-Ghaut (360 Assurance Assistant Director) 07545 502397 tracey.barnard-ghaut1@nhs.net</p> <p>Ruby Deo (360 Assurance Client Lead) 07545 502399 ruby.deo@nhs.net</p>
Strategic Objectives:	Our Council (SO1)
Vision and Values:	"Our Borough - The Place To Be" (Vision) Resourceful & Resilient (V4)
Report Implications:-	
Legal:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Financial:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.

Corporate Risk Management:	Decreasing Financial Resources / Increasing Financial Pressures (CR1) Reputation Damage (CR4) Regulatory Governance (CR6)
Equalities and Equalities Assessment (EA):	There are no implications directly arising from this report. EA not applicable
Human Rights:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Health and Safety:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Statutory Officers' Comments:-	
Head of Paid Service:	The report is satisfactory.
Chief Finance Officer:	As the author, the report is satisfactory.
Monitoring Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Consultees:	None.
Background Papers:	None.
Appendices:	1. Head of Internal Audit Opinion and Annual Report (2023/24)

1. Background

- 1.1 Under the Local Government Act 1972, section 151 and the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 (as amended), the Council has a responsibility to maintain an adequate and effective Internal Audit function. At Oadby & Wigston Borough Council, during 2023/24 this responsibility was delivered by 360 Assurance.
- 1.2 In responding to this requirement, the Internal Audit service works to best practice and is compliant with Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS).
- 1.3 The Internal Audit Annual Report & Opinion (2023/24) is attached at **Appendix 1** and provides an overall summary of the work undertaken for the whole year in relation to the 2023/24 approved Annual Audit Plan.
- 1.4 Internal Audit progress reports are regularly presented to the Audit Committee so Members can be kept up to date with Internal Audit work and findings.
- 1.5 The Audit Opinion forms part of the Council's Annual Governance Statement. This report also meets requirements to report on the review of the effectiveness of Internal Audit and so feed results into the Annual Governance Statement.
- 1.6 360 Assurance will be present at the meeting to talk through the report.