

Report to: Audit and Governance Committee, 10th July 2024

**Report of: Head of Internal Audit Shared Service, Worcestershire
Internal Audit Shared Service**

Subject: ANNUAL REPORT OF INTERNAL AUDIT FOR 2023/24

1. Recommendation

1.1 That the Committee notes the report.

2. Background

2.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations and the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (the Standards) require the Head of Internal Audit to provide an annual Internal Audit Opinion and report that can be used by the organisation to inform its Annual Governance Statement. The Standards also specify that the report must contain:

- An internal audit opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's governance, risk and control framework (i.e. the control environment);
- A summary of the audit work from which the opinion is derived and any work by other assurance providers upon which reliance is placed; and
- A statement on the extent of conformance with the Standards including progress against the improvement plan resulting from any external assessments.

2.2 The Council is required under Regulation 6 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2018 to "maintain in accordance with proper practices an adequate and effective system of internal audit of its accounting records and of its system of internal control".

3. Report

3.1 **Appendix A** to this report provides the Internal Audit Annual Report; this includes the Head of Internal Audit's opinion on the control environment for 2023/24 and the basis for this opinion. The Head of Internal Audit's overall opinion is that **Reasonable Assurance** can be given that there is an adequate and effective governance, risk and control framework in place, designed to meet the organisation's objectives.

Ward(s): N/A
Contact Officer: Chris Green,
Email: chris.green@worcester.gov.uk
Background Papers: None