

RAPC 443/21

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

RESOURCES, AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE – 1 MARCH 2021

INTERNAL AUDIT UPDATE 2020/21

Report by: Antony Harvey, Deputy Head of the Southern Internal Audit Partnership and Chief Internal Auditor to the Authority

1 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Resources, Audit and Performance Committee with an overview of internal audit activity completed in accordance with the approved audit plan and to provide an overview of the status of 'live' reports (**Annex 1**). The report also contains a copy of the External Quality Assessment of the Southern Internal Audit Partnership which was completed late last year (**Annex 2**)

2 Summary

- 2.1 Under the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015, the New Forest National Park Authority is responsible for:
- ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control which facilitates the effective exercise of functions and includes arrangements for the management of risk; and
 - undertaking an adequate and effective internal audit of its accounting records and of its system of internal control in accordance with the proper practices in relation to internal control.
- 2.2 In accordance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and the Authority's Internal Audit Charter, the Chief Internal Auditor is required to provide a written status report to the Resources, Audit and Performance Committee, summarising:
- 'communications on the internal audit activity's performance relative to its' plan.'*
- 2.3 Annex 1 summarises the performance of Internal Audit for 2020-21 to 31 January 2021.
- 2.4 Annex 2 contains an External Quality Assessment of the Southern Internal Audit Partnership, as undertaken by the Chartered Institute of Internal Auditors in late 2020.

3 Additional Information

- 3.1 The internal audit plan for 2020/21 was approved by the Resources, Audit and Performance Committee on 16 March 2020.
- 3.2 Provision for the delivery of Internal Audit is included within the Authority's Service Level Agreement with New Forest District Council.

4 Recommendation

It is recommended that Members note the Internal Audit Progress Report 2020/21 (Annex 1) and the External Quality Assessment (Annex 2).

Resources:

As set out in the report.

Equality and Diversity Implications:

There are no equality or diversity implications arising directly from this report.

Papers:

RAPC 443/21:	Cover Paper
RAPC 443/21 Annex 1:	Internal Audit Progress Report 2020/21
RAPC 443/21 Annex 2:	External Quality Assessment of SIAP

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