

RAPC 534/24

NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

RESOURCES, AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE – 3 JUNE 2024

ANNUAL INTERNAL AUDIT PERFORMANCE AND OPINION REPORT 2023/24

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 the Chief Internal Auditor's opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the New Forest National Park Authority's (the Authority's) framework of risk management, control and governance processes for the year ending 31 March 2024.

2 Summary

- 2.1 In accordance with proper internal audit practices, the Chief Internal Auditor is required to provide a written report reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control to inform the production of the Annual Governance Statement.
- 2.2 The Annual Report for 2023/24 (attached as Annex 1) provides the Chief Internal Auditor's opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness the Authority's framework of risk management, control and governance processes and summarises audit work from which that opinion is derived for the year ending 31 March 2024.
- 2.3 The Resources, Audit and Performance Committee's attention is drawn to the following points:
- Internal audit was compliant with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards during 2023/24;
 - The Authority's framework of governance, risk management and management control is considered to be 'Reasonable' and audit testing has demonstrated controls to be working in practice;
 - Where internal audit work identified areas where management controls could be improved or where systems and laid down procedures were not fully followed, appropriate corrective actions and a timescale for improvement have been agreed with the responsible officers.

3 Additional Information

- 3.1 The internal audit plan for 2023/24 was approved by the Resources, Audit and Performance Committee on 6 March 2023 (RAPC 502/23).
- 3.2 Provision for the delivery of Internal Audit is included within the Authority's wider financial Service Level Agreement with New Forest District Council.

4 Recommendation

It is recommended that members approve the Chief Internal Auditor's Annual Internal Audit Performance and Opinion Report for 2023/24.

Papers:

RAPC 534/24 – Cover report

RAPC 534/24 Annex 1 – Annual Internal Audit Performance and Opinion 2023/24

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