

ROYAL BERKSHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY



COMMITTEE	AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
DATE OF MEETING	17 SEPTEMBER 2019
SUBJECT	INTERNAL AUDIT UPDATE
LEAD OFFICER	CONOR BYRNE, HEAD OF FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT
LEAD MEMBER	N/A
EXEMPT INFORMATION	NONE
ACTION	FOR NOTE

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To present the 2018/19 Annual Report to the Committee as well as the findings from audits that have taken place since the last meeting.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Committee **NOTE** the 2018/19 Annual Report as well as the findings in the Audit Progress Report.

3. REPORT

- 3.1 RSM's Annual Report for 2018/19 is attached as **Appendix A**. The Report states that "the organisation has an adequate and effective framework for risk management, governance and internal control". It should be noted that this is the highest level of assurance that RSM provides in its annual audit reports.
- 3.2 RSM's Progress Report is attached as **Appendix B**. Five audits have been completed since the last committee meeting as set out in paragraphs 3.3 to 3.7.
- 3.3 The Payroll Audit Report is a follow-up audit and confirms that all actions from the previous payroll audit have been completed.
- 3.4 The opinion in the Pension Audit Report states that the Committee can take substantial assurance that the controls upon which the organisation relies to manage the identified areas are suitably designed, consistently applied and operating effectively.

- 3.5 Similarly, the audit opinion for the Key Financial Controls audit states that the Committee can take substantial assurance that the controls upon which the organisation relies to manage the identified areas are suitably designed, consistently applied and operating effectively.
- 3.6 The Tax Audit is an advisory audit and therefore no audit opinion is provided.
- 3.7 Finally, the audit opinion for the Business Continuity and Emergency Planning audit states that the Committee can take substantial assurance that the controls upon which the organisation relies to manage the identified areas are suitably designed, consistently applied and operating effectively.
- 3.8 A representative from RSM will attend the meeting to provide further detail and answer any questions from members.

4. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC COMMITMENTS

- 4.1 Commitment 5 – We will ensure that Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service provides good value for money.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The work of the internal auditors assures members that the Authority's internal controls are in good order which is a prerequisite to achieving value for money.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 In accordance with Public Sector Internal Audit Standards, the Head of Internal Audit is required to provide an annual opinion, based upon and limited to the work performed, on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the organisation's risk management, control and governance processes. The opinion should contribute to the Authority's Annual Governance Statement.

7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 None.

8. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The internal audit programme aims to identify key risks and report on the effectiveness of controls and mitigating actions.

9. CONSISTENCY WITH DUTY TO COLLABORATE

- 9.1 Internal audits will consider how the Authority is meeting this requirement where applicable.

10. PRINCIPAL CONSULTATION

10.1 No issues for statutory officers.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1 2018/19 Internal Audit Plan

11.2 2019/20 Internal Audit Plan

12. APPENDICES

12.1 **Appendix A** RSM's 2018/19 Annual Report

12.2 **Appendix B** RSM's Progress Report

13. CONTACT DETAILS

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