

INTERNAL AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS - ACTIONS UPDATE

AGENDA ITEM No. 7

MEETING: **AUDIT, RISK AND G.D.P.R. SUB-COMMITTEE**

DATE: **5TH MAY 2026**

REPORT BY: **FINANCE MANAGER**

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide Members with an update on any outstanding actions relating to previous internal audit recommendations, and any new internal audit recommendations made since the last report to the Audit, Risk and GDPR Sub-Committee in February 2026.

2.0 Current Situation

2.1 It is a requirement of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 to '*undertake an effective internal audit to evaluate the effectiveness of its risk management, control and governance processes.*'

2.2 A required element of this process is to report an action plan to the Audit, Risk and GDPR Sub-Committee on those areas where audit recommendations have been made by the Internal Auditor for areas of improvement or development, along with proposed remedial actions, the officers responsible for implementing the actions, and deadline for completion of the actions.

2.3 Attached at Appendix 1 is a copy of the current Internal Audit Recommendation Action Plan which provides an update on any outstanding actions relating to previous internal audit recommendations and highlights any new internal audit recommendations made this year, with an update on the current position.

2.4 There was one outstanding recommendation from previous audit reports and no new recommendations from the Internal Auditor's reports presented at this meeting. The new recommendation will be rectified with the forthcoming review of the constitution and at the annual meeting of the Council later this month.

2.5 The Internal Audit Recommendation Action Plan will be updated and reported to each meeting of the Audit, Risk and GDPR Sub-Committee so that Members can track progress on implementing all recommendations.

2.6 As Members will see from the action plan and the recommendations from the latest Internal Auditor's reports, there are no significant issues identified and internal controls are operating effectively. This supports the opinion in previous reports to Council that the system of internal control is working effectively.

3.0 Impact on Great Aycliffe Town Council.

3.1 The system of internal audit controls in place demonstrates that the Council's internal control arrangements are sound and operate effectively.

4.0 Policy Implications

4.1 Conforms to assisting the delivery of the following Council Strategic Aims:

Aim 1 "To provide good quality governance and management of the Council".

Aim 2 "To manage the Council's finances and assets in a responsible manner".

5.0 Staffing Implications

5.1 There are no staffing implications arising from the report.

6.0 Financial Implications

6.1 The reporting of the Internal Audit recommendations action plan helps the Council to meet its responsibility under the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 to *'undertake an effective internal audit to evaluate the effectiveness of its risk management, internal control and governance processes.*

7.0 Crime and Disorder Implications

7.1 None.

8.0 Equal Opportunities Implications

8.1 None.

9.0 Environment and Climate Change Implications

9.1 None.

10.0 Risk Assessment

10.1 The operation of the system of internal control and the work of the Internal Auditor in delivering the Internal Audit Plan, as well as the maintenance of the Internal Audit Recommendation Action Plan contributes to ensuring effective risk management arrangements are maintained within the Council.

10.2 A specific risk assessment is not required in relation to content of this report.

11.0 General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

11.1 There is no personal or sensitive data required for this proposal which may have any implications for GDPR?

12.0 Recommendation

12.1 It is recommended that Members consider and receive the report.

Finance Manager