

**AUDIT COMMITTEE**  
**29 MAY 2018**

**INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18**

**Cabinet Member**                      **Cllr Peter Hare-Scott**  
**Responsible Officer**                **Audit Manager, David Curnow**

**Reason for Report:** To update the Committee on the work performed by Internal Audit during the 2017/18 financial year as required by the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):** The Committee considers the report for information and notes the audit assurance opinion on the internal control framework when reviewing and approving the Annual Governance Statement.

1. The key objective of Internal Audit is to provide assurance to Members, Leadership and the Director of Finance (as the Council's "section 151 responsible officer") on the adequacy and security of those systems on which the Council relies for its internal control, both financial and management.
2. One of the key elements of the Council's governance arrangements is the Annual Governance Statement (AGS), signed by the Chief Executive and Chair of Audit Committee. This is included in the Council's Annual Statement of Accounts. The assurance opinions derived from the work of Internal Audit are among the significant items that inform the AGS.
3. The summary report available separately describes the performance of Devon Audit Partnership against the internal audit plans for 2017/18 that were approved by the Audit Committee in March 2017. That work, and the continuing contribution of Devon Audit Partnership to both risk management and anti-fraud arrangements within the Council, leads to an opinion that the Council has an effective framework of control which provides significant assurance regarding the effective, efficient and economic achievement of its objectives. The Committee can take assurance from these findings.

**Relationship to Corporate Plan:** Effective Internal Audit plays a fundamental role in assisting the Council with its governance and assurance process.

**Financial Implications:** None

**Legal Implications:** None

**Risk Assessment:** In-effective public accountability through Annual Governance Statement may result in the Council breaching the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

**Equality Impact Assessment:** No equality issues identified for this report.

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**Circulation of the Report:** Leadership Team and Cabinet Member, DAP