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## **INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT**

To: **Governance and Audit Committee: 21<sup>st</sup> March 2013**

By: **Head of the Audit Partnership: Christine Parker**

Subject: **INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT OF THE HEAD OF THE AUDIT PARTNERSHIP.**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

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**Summary:** This report gives Members a summary of the internal audit work completed by the East Kent Audit Partnership since the last Governance and Audit Committee meeting, together with details of the performance of the EKAP to the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012.

### **For Information**

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#### **1.0 Introduction**

1.1 This report includes the summary of the work completed by the East Kent Audit Partnership since the last Governance and Audit Committee meeting, together with details of the performance of the EKAP to the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012.

#### **2.0 Audit Reporting**

2.1 For each Audit review, management has agreed a report, and where appropriate, an Action Plan detailing proposed actions and implementation dates relating to each recommendation. Reports continue to be issued in full to each member of Senior Management Team, as well as an appropriate manager for the service reviewed.

2.2 Follow-up reviews are performed at an appropriate time, according to the status of the recommendation, timescales for implementation of any agreed actions and the risk to the Council.

2.3 An Assurance Statement is given to each area reviewed. The assurance statements are linked to the potential level of risk, as currently portrayed in the Council's risk assessment process. The assurance rating given may be Substantial, Reasonable, Limited or No assurance.

2.4 Those services with either Limited or No Assurance are monitored, and brought back to Committee until a subsequent review shows sufficient improvement has been made to raise the level of Assurance to either Reasonable or Substantial. A list of those services currently with such levels of assurance is attached as Appendix 2 to the EKAP report.

2.5 The purpose of the Council's Audit Committee is to provide independent assurance of the adequacy of the risk management framework and the

associated control environment, independent review of the Authority's financial and non-financial performance to the extent that it affects the Authority's exposure to risk and weakens the control environment, and to oversee the financial reporting process.

- 2.6 To assist the Committee meet its terms of reference with regard to the internal control environment an update report is regularly produced on the work of internal audit. The purpose of this report is to detail the summary findings of completed audit reports and follow-up reviews since the report submitted to the last meeting of this Committee.

### **3.0 Summary of Work**

- 3.1 There have been eleven internal audit assignments completed during the period. Of these: four concluded Substantial assurance, five concluded Reasonable assurance and one gave rise to split assurance levels which was partially Limited. There was one additional piece of work which for which an assurance level was not applicable as it comprised quarterly housing benefit claim testing. Summaries of the report findings are detailed within Annex 1 to this report.

- 3.2 In addition, six follow-up reviews have been completed during the period.

- 3.3 For the nine months to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012, 271.18 chargeable days were delivered against the planned target of 320 days which equates to 83% plan completion.

- 3.4 The financial performance of the EKAP is on target at the present time.

### **4.0 Options**

- 4.1 That Members consider and note the internal audit update report.

- 4.2 That the changes to the agreed 2012-13 internal audit plan, resulting from changes in perceived risk, detailed at point 5.0 of the attached report be approved.

- 4.3 That Members consider (where appropriate) requesting an update from the relevant Director/s to the next meeting of the Committee in respect of any areas identified as still having either limited or no assurance following follow-up.

- 4.4 That Members consider registering their concerns with Cabinet in respect of any areas of the Council's corporate governance, control framework or risk management arrangements in respect of which they have on-going concerns after the completion of internal audit follow-up reviews and update presentations from the relevant Director.

### **5.0 Corporate Implications**

#### **5.1 Financial Implications**

- 5.1.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. The costs of the audit work have been met from the Financial Services 2012-13 budgets.

## 5.2 Legal Implications

5.2.1 The Council is required by statute (under the Accounts and Audit Regulations and section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972) to have an adequate and effective internal audit function.

## 5.3 Corporate Implications

5.3.1 Under the Local Code of Corporate Governance accepted by Cabinet on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2009, the Council is committed to comply with requirements for the independent review of the financial and operational reporting processes, through the external audit and inspection processes, and satisfactory arrangements for internal audit.

## 6.0 Recommendations

6.1 That the report be received by Members.

6.2 That any changes to the agreed 2012-13 internal audit plans, resulting from changes in perceived risk, detailed at point 5.0 of the attached report be approved.

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### ***Annex List:***

Annex 1	East Kent Audit Partnership Update Report – 21-03-2013
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### ***Background Papers:***

<b>Title</b>	<b>Details of where to access copy</b>
<i>Internal Audit Annual Plan 2012-13</i>	Previously presented to and approved at the 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2012 Governance and Audit Committee meeting
<i>Internal Audit working papers</i>	Held by the East Kent Audit Partnership