

POLICY, GOVERNANCE & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 27 September 2021

Title: Review of Internal Audit Services

Contact Officer: Responsible Financial Officer - Tina Jardine

Background

As part of the Council's due diligence and internal control measures, Officers have undertaken a review of Internal Auditors; the Council having employed the services of Auditing Solutions for several years.

Current Situation

Officers approached three internal auditors who audit large Town Councils from a list provided by the Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils. The following responses have been received (details attached):

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| • Mulberry & Co | Estimate £720 for 10-12 hours per annum + travel |
| • Do the Numbers (Eleanor Green) | Estimate £1,550 3 full days per annum + unlimited support |
| • Auditing Solutions (Current provider) | £1,380 @ 3 to 4 days @ £460 per day |

Auditing Solutions

If Members are minded staying with the current provider – formal agreement will be required per their letter of engagement – also attached.

Environmental impact

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 – with this in mind Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make with regard to its facilities and services it operates.

Risk

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

The Council needs to demonstrate it has undertaken its due diligence and reviewed its provider of Internal Audit from time to time, as part of its risk management. The impartiality

of internal auditors is important as External Audit is reliant of internal processes being reviewed and scrutinised to ensure the Council meets its obligations in line with its standing orders, financial regulations and legislation.

Financial implications

As detailed in the above report. However, the RFO would highlight the disparity between the numbers of hours/days offered between the lowest quote and the highest.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report and consider which internal auditor to be appointed based on the information provided above and in the attached.