



Glasgow City Council

Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee

Report by Head of Audit and Inspection

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Item 5

21st October 2026

INTERNAL AUDIT – SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of Report:

To advise members of the main findings of the following audit reports issued recently, together with a summary of action taken:

- Corporate Review – Fair Work First Compliance
- Corporate Review – Freedom of Information Requests
- Social Work Services – Self Directed Support Framework of Standards
- Chief Executive's Department – Governance Review
- Financial Services – Accounts Payable Data Analysis
- Financial Services – Treasury Management

The audits undertaken in this period provide assurance linked to the Grand Challenges and Missions within the Council Strategic Plan 2022-2027, including Grand Challenge 4, Mission 3 – Enable staff to deliver a sustainable and innovative council structure that delivers value for money.

Note:

In most cases one of four opinions is expressed:

- The control environment is satisfactory i.e. audit testing found no concerns with the control environment.
- A reasonable level of assurance can be placed upon the control environment i.e. audit testing found no major weaknesses in the control environment but some improvements could be made.
- A limited level of assurance can be placed upon the control environment i.e. improvements are necessary to ensure the control environment is fit for purpose.
- The control environment is unsatisfactory i.e. significant improvements are required before any reliance can be placed upon the control environment.

Recommendations:

The Committee is asked to:

1. Note the content of the reports, and
2. Instruct the Head of Audit & Inspection to provide follow up reports showing progress towards achievement of the Action Plans arising from the audits undertaken.

Ward No(s):

Local member(s) advised: Yes ☐ No ☐

Citywide: ☐

consulted: Yes ☐ No ☐

1 High Level Summary

- 1.1 The attached Internal Audit Update Summary provides the Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee with an overview of the work undertaken by Internal Audit during the period 8 August 2026 and 9 October 2026, as part of the agreed Internal Audit Plan.
- 1.2 The report summarises the findings of each of the audits completed during that time, highlights any recommendations made, and the audit opinion in light of the findings of the audit activity.
- 1.3 The detailed audit reports are available separately, together with agreed plans for addressing the recommendations.

2 Key Findings

- 2.1 Internal Audit is an independent appraisal function within the Council. Its work is based on an annual audit plan which is prepared after a risk assessment of all potential audit issues identified by Internal Audit and Service Directors and takes account of the work of the Council's external auditor, Ernst and Young.
- 2.2 During the period between 8 August 2026 and 9 October 2026, 6 reviews have been completed and summary information for each review is provided below. The full reports are provided as separate papers within the agenda.

2.3 Corporate Review – Fair Work First Compliance

	High	Medium	Low	Service Improvement
Number of recommendations	0	2	0	0

The purpose of the audit was to ensure there are sufficient and appropriate controls in place covering Fair Work First compliance.

Based on the audit work carried out a reasonable level of assurance can be placed on the control environment. The audit has identified some scope for improvement in the existing arrangements and two recommendations which management should address.

The recommendations relate to (1) improvements in relation to the recording of Scottish Government grant funding, and (2) the development of processes to ensure that, where relevant, evidence of Fair Work First compliance is obtained and retained to support the disbursement of Scottish Government funding.

2.4 Corporate Review – Freedom of Information Requests

	High	Medium	Low	Service Improvement
Number of recommendations	0	2	0	0

The purpose of the audit was to gain assurance that there are adequate controls in place for the management and reporting of FOI requests across all Services.

Based on the audit work carried out a reasonable level of assurance can be placed on the control environment. The audit has identified some scope for improvement in the existing arrangements and two recommendations which management should address.

The recommendations relate to (1) the development of a proposal for the mandating of FOI training for staff, and (2) reminding staff of the importance of complying with FOI process and timescales, as well as ensuring that correspondence is retained for future reference.

2.5 Social Work Services – Self Directed Support Framework of Standards

	High	Medium	Low	Service Improvement
Number of recommendations	0	6	0	0

The purpose of the audit was to gain assurance that the Framework of Standards is being applied as expected, in line with Scottish Government guidance.

Based on the work carried out a reasonable level of assurance can be placed on the control environment. The audit has identified some scope for improvement in the existing arrangements and six recommendations which management should address.

The recommendations relate to (1) ensuring that guidance is approved by senior management, (2) the completion and checking of accurate service user assessments, (3) the monitoring and challenge of support needs assessments which have been signed off but do not observe the framework of standards, (4) investigating the use of reporting to highlight instances where corrective action should be taken, (5) the development of an action plan for addressing data quality issues within the CareFirst system, and (6) ensuring that service users in supported accommodation have an active service agreement in place.

2.6 Chief Executive's Department – Governance Review

	High	Medium	Low	Service Improvement
Number of recommendations	0	0	0	0

The purpose of this audit was to gain assurance that the Chief Executive's Department has effective corporate governance arrangements in place and can evidence the responses provided in their AGQ. The responses reviewed related to the 2025/26 financial year.

Based on the audit work carried out, assurance can be taken that the control environment is satisfactory.

2.7 Financial Services – Accounts Payable Data Analysis

	High	Medium	Low	Service Improvement
Number of recommendations	0	0	1	0

The purpose of the audit was to utilise data analytics in order to identify anomalous transactions for further testing on the effectiveness of accounts payable controls.

Based on the audit work carried out a satisfactory level of assurance can be placed upon the control environment. The audit has identified scope for improvement in existing arrangements and one recommendation which management should address.

The recommendation relates to the checking of invoices prior to being passed for processing to ensure that duplicate payments aren't made.

2.8 Financial Services – Treasury Management

	High	Medium	Low	Service Improvement
Number of recommendations	0	0	1	0

The purpose of the audit was to gain assurance that the Treasury Management function continues to operate in accordance with the relevant policies, procedures and controls to ensure delivery of the strategy, and that proper governance of the treasury function is in place.

Based on the audit work carried out a satisfactory level of assurance can be placed upon the control environment. The audit has identified scope for improvement in existing arrangements and one recommendation which management should address.

The recommendation relates to the review and update of procedures to ensure that they are up to date with the CIPFA Prudential Code.

- 2.9 The full reports for the above reviews have been included as separate papers within the agenda.

3 Recommendations

The Committee is asked to:

- Note the content of the reports, and
- Instruct the Head of Audit & Inspection to provide follow up reports showing progress towards achievement of the Action Plans arising from the audits undertaken.