

REPORT REFERENCE NO.	AGC/23/4
MEETING	AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
DATE OF MEETING	18 JANUARY 2023
SUBJECT OF REPORT	INTERNAL AUDIT FOLLOW UP: HOME FIRE SAFETY VISITS
LEAD OFFICER	DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE AND DIGITAL SERVICES
RECOMMENDATIONS	<i>That the update on delivery of Home Fire Safety Visits be noted.</i>
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>At its meeting on 22 July 2022, Audit & Governance Committee requested an update to its November meeting on the actions to address the audits that had been reported to the July meeting with a limited assurance rating. One of these updates related to Community Safety – Fire Prevention.</p> <p>Assurance was provided in November that although operational issues with the Home Safety app and data continue, the Prevention team was on track to deliver the target of 18,000 home safety visits this year. The Committee requested that the number of Home Fire Safety Visits undertaken be reported back to the January 2023 meeting.</p> <p>This report provides confirmation that achievement of the annual target remains on track.</p>
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	Nil
EQUALITY RISKS AND BENEFITS ASSESSMENT (ERBA)	The contents of this report are considered compatible with existing human rights and equalities legislation.
APPENDICES	Nil.
LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS	<u>AGC/22/15 INTERNAL AUDIT 2022-23 PROGRESS REPORT</u>

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The aim of Internal Audit is to provide independent and objective assurance that the Service's risk management, governance and internal control processes are operating effectively.
- 1.2. Where recommendations for improvements have been made within audit reports, action plans have been agreed with management and regular reviews conducted.
- 1.3. At its meeting on 22 July 2022, Audit & Governance Committee requested an update to its November meeting on the actions to address the audits that had been reported to the July meeting with a limited assurance rating. One of these updates related to Community Safety – Fire Prevention. Assurance was provided in November 2022 that, although operational issues with the Home Safety app and data continue, the Prevention team was on track to deliver the target of 18,000 home safety visits this year. The Committee requested that the number of Home Fire Safety Visits undertaken be reported back to the January 2023 meeting.

2. UPDATE ON DELIVERY OF HOME FIRE SAFETY VISITS

- 2.1. The Area Manager - Service Delivery Risk - has confirmed the following:
 - Annual target for Home Fire Safety Visits: 18,000 visits;
 - Target for completion of Home Fire Safety Visits at the end of December 2022: 13,500 visits;
 - Completed Home Fire Safety Visits April 1 to December 31 2022: 14,544.
- 2.2. Achievement of the annual target is therefore on track.

3. NEXT STEPS

- 3.1. Future updates on progress related specifically to the performance on Home Fire Safety Visits will be reported to the Community Safety Committee.
- 3.2. This Committee will continue to be apprised of the findings of audits with a limited assurance rating on at least an annual basis until there is sufficient assurance that appropriate action has been taken.

MIKE PEARSON
Director of Governance & Digital Services