

**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES**

<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	Finance and Policy		
<b>MEETING DATE AND TIME</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> January 2023 7.00pm	<b>LOCATION</b>	Congleton Town Hall
<b>REPORT FROM</b>	Chief Officer/Responsible Financial Officer		
<b>AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>14 Appointment of Internal Auditor</b>		
<b>Background</b>	<p>The Town Council is required by Regulation 5(1) of the Accounts and Audit regulations 2015 to “undertake an effective internal audit to evaluate the effectiveness of its risk management, control and governance processes”. The Council complied with the requirements in terms of independence from the Council decision making process by appointing Auditing Solutions Ltd to provide this function to the Council.</p> <p>As the Council’s Internal Auditor, the Internal Auditor has a duty to complete the internal audit report in the Council’s Annual Return, which covers the basic financial systems, activities, operating procedures and requires assurances in separate areas as shown below. After each audit a report of findings is generated, the interim audit reports are presented to Finance and Policy Committee and the Final Report is presented to Finance and Policy Committee and Council.</p>		
<b>Proposal</b>	<p>The current internal audit is provided by Auditing Solutions Ltd. They are a well-established company with extensive experience with Town and Parish Councils. They audit the Council’s financial and other internal control systems and the financial records up to four times per year and have provided good advice. They work with many other councils in providing this service and are familiar with our processes and procedures. Historically our external audit has been consistently good which demonstrates that the guidance and support being provided by the Internal auditor is sound. Remaining with Accounting Solutions would provide continued continuity with the audit procedure to Congleton Town Council.</p>		
<b>Finance</b>	The 2023/24 Budget cost for Internal Audit is £ 1,760.		
<b>Decision Requested</b>	That the Finance and Policy Committee resolve to approve continuing with Auditing Solutions for internal audit provision for the financial year 2023-24.		