

Date: 14 December 2023	Item 9	Type of report: Noting
Report title:	Internal Audit Schools Summary Report 2022-23	
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## Internal Audit Schools Summary Report 2022-23

### Purpose of this report

1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Schools Forum of the Internal Audit Schools Summary Report 2022-23 for the London Borough of Southwark and the work undertaken by officers in relation to the common themes identified.

#### Schools Forum Actions

2. The Schools Forum is asked to note the report, particularly the common themes arising outlined in Section 4 of the summary report, attached at Appendix 1.

### Background

3. On 17 July 2023 the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee (the committee) considered the Internal Audit Schools Summary Report 2022-23. The report, attached at Appendix 1, summarises the approach and key findings regarding the London Borough of Southwark school audits which were completed during 2022-23 by BDO LLP on behalf of the Council. It describes the hiatus in such auditing at the outset of the Covid 19 pandemic particularly through the year 2020-21. It notes the resumption of a full programme of audits in 2022-23 that covered 20 schools. The committee recommended to invite the Director of Education to the next committee in September 2023.
4. On 6 September 2023 the committee received a short report from the Director of Education, who was unable to attend. The committee requested a more detailed report be provided to the November committee.
5. In accordance with that request, the Director of Children's Services presented a fuller report to the committee on 15 November 2023, attached at Appendix 2, which outlined the specific actions taken to support schools in response to the common themes identified as well as the more general risks and issues facing all schools and the Council.

### Conclusion

6. Now that the full programme of schools' internal audits has resumed, the local authority will share the annual Internal Audit Schools Summary Report with the Schools Forum, following its presentation to the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee each year.

7. Schools Forum is asked to note the report, particularly the common themes arising outlined in Section 4 of the summary report, attached at Appendix 1.

### **Audit, Governance and Standards Committee reports**

8. Each of the reports referred to above can be located on the Council's website at the following locations:

- [July Committee: page 157](#)
- [September Committee: page 17](#)
- [November Committee: page 5](#)