

The Regional Municipality of York

Audit Committee
January 14, 2021

Report of the Director, Audit Services

Audit Services Branch Report

1. Recommendations

Council receive this report for information.

2. Summary

This report provides an update on the activities of the Audit Services Branch since the last Audit Committee meeting held on June 10, 2020.

3. Background

The Audit Services Branch provides independent, objective assurance and consulting services designed to add value and improve York Region's operations. Audit Committee meets twice yearly and receives the Audit Services Branch activities in the fulfilment of their oversight responsibilities on the Region's systems of internal control and the audit process.

4. Analysis

Audit Plan Execution

The Audit Services Branch Four-Year Audit Plan was approved by the Audit Committee on January 9, 2019. As reported to Audit Committee on June 10, 2020 the Four-Year Audit Plan has been impacted by the Regional declared emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, the Audit Services Branch has taken the opportunity to revise the Four-Year Audit Plan from a four-year to a one-year basis. This change allows for flexibility in planning to address new and emerging risks, in-year requests and is aligned with the *International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing*. The proposed Risk-Based Work Plan for 2021 will be presented for approval under a separate report.

Audit Services continues to conduct audits where feasible, provide consulting and investigation services upon request, follow up on outstanding audit recommendations and maintain the quality assurance and improvement program that covers all aspects of the internal audit activity.

Management was provided the opportunity to defer providing an update on the status of outstanding audit recommendations at this time given the organizational response to the emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

A summary of the Audit Services Branch activities since the June 10, 2020 Audit Committee is outlined in Attachment 1.

Audit Reports Issued

The following Audit Reports have been issued since June 10, 2020:

- Corporate Services – Human Resources Workplace Health, Safety and Wellness Audit (Attachment 2)
- Finance – Information and Technology Cellular Audit (Attachment 3)
- September 2020 Outstanding Audit Recommendations Follow-Up Report (Attachment 4)

Audit Services Branch supports Vision 2051 and the 2019 to 2023 Strategic Plan

The Audit Services Branch, through its service offerings including assurance, consulting and investigation services, assists the Region in achieving its goals and community results areas in Vision 2051 under Open and Responsive Governance and in the 2019 to 2023 Strategic Plan under Good Government. The internal audit activity is designed to add value and improve an organization's operations through a systematic and disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, controls and processes.

5. Financial

Audit Services continues to manage its workload within the allocated budget.

6. Local Impact

The Audit Services Branch provides auditing services to seven of the local municipalities through a Memorandum of Understanding on a cost recovery basis.

7. Conclusion

Audit Services will continue to conduct audits where feasible, provide consulting and investigation services upon request, follow up on outstanding audit recommendations and maintain the quality assurance and improvement program. An update of Audit Services activities will be brought forward to the next Audit Committee meeting scheduled for June 2021.

For more information on this report, please contact Michelle Morris, Director, Audit Services 1-877-464-9675 ext.71205. Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request.

Recommended by: **Michelle Morris**
Director, Audit Services

November 27, 2020
Attachments (4)
eDOCS #12040435