

AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE 24 March 2010

ITEM 12

Report of the Head of Audit and Risk Management

FOLLOW UP AUDITS REPORT

SUMMARY

- 1.1 Of the 718 audit recommendations made between 1 April 2008 and 30 November 2010:
 - 578 have been implemented (80.5%).
 - 53 have been superseded by events (7.4%).
 - 58 are still in the process of being implemented (8.1%).
 - 0 are now not going to be implemented (0%).
 - 17 have passed their agreed implementation date, but we have been unable to obtain progress information (2.4%).
 - 12 have not yet reached their agreed implementation dates (1.7%).

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To review the summary report in Appendix 2, that shows where agreed actions in respect of audit recommendations have not been implemented.
- 2.2 To scrutinise the report in Appendix 3, that shows those recommendations not yet implemented to determine whether members consider further actions are required to secure implementation or whether officers should be required to provide the committee with more detailed explanations of the action status.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3.1 The Terms of Reference of the Audit & Accounts Committee requires that it considers a report from internal audit on agreed recommendations not implemented within a reasonable timescale.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

4.1 The report at Appendix 2 is intended to provide members with an overview of the current implementation status of all agreed actions to address the control weaknesses highlighted by audit recommendations that have passed their agreed implementation dates. Our Audit Management System has been remodelled to align all recommendations with the revised organisational structure and Appendices 2 and 3 reflect these changes of responsibility.

- 4.2 Internal Audit has sent emails, automatically generated by our recommendations database, to officers responsible for action where their recommendations' action dates have been exceeded. We have requested an update on each recommendation's implementation status, which has been fed back into the database, along with any revised implementation dates.
- 4.3 Each Chief Officer has been provided with the details of each of the recommendations made to their departments, relating to reports issued between 1 April 2008 and 30 November 2010, which have yet to be implemented. This is intended to give them an opportunity to provide Audit with an update position.
- 4.4 There are no longer any outstanding recommendations from the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2008.
- 4.5 We have not included the recommendations made in audit reports issued since 1 December 2010. This is to allow time for recommendations to have reached their agreed implementation dates.
- 4.6 Each recommendation made by Internal Audit is assigned one of the following "Action Status" categories as a result of our attempts to follow-up management's progress in the implementation of agreed actions. The following explanations are provided in respect of each "Action Status" category:
 - **Blank** = Audit have been unable to ascertain any progress information from the responsible officer.
 - **Implemented** = Audit has received assurances that the agreed actions have been implemented.
 - **Superseded** = Audit has received information about changes to the system or processes that means that the original weaknesses no longer exist.
 - **Being Implemented** = Management is still committed to undertaking the agreed actions, but they have yet to be completed. (This category should result in a revised action date)
 - **Not Implemented** = Management has decided, on reflection, not to implement the agreed actions.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 Not applicable.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Service Director(s)	
Other(s)	Richard Boneham, Head of Audit & Risk Management

For more information contact:

Background papers:
List of appendices:

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None
Appendix 1 – Implications
Appendix 2 – Summary of Implementation Status
Appendix 3 – Detail of Recommendations Not Yet Implemented

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

1.1 None directly arising.

Legal

2.1 Under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003, the Council is required to maintain an adequate and effective system of internal audit of its accounting records and of its system of internal control in accordance with the proper internal audit practices.

Personnel

3.1 None directly arising

Equalities Impact

4.1 None directly arising.

Health and Safety

5.1 None directly arising.

Environmental Sustainability

6.1 None directly arising.

Asset Management

7.1 None directly arising.

Risk Management

8.1 None directly arising.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

9.1 The functions of the Committee have been established to support delivery of corporate objectives by enhancing scrutiny of various aspects of the Council's controls and governance arrangements.

SUMMARY OF IMPLEMENTATION STATUS Status of Recommendations Made Between 1 April 2008 and 30 November 2010											
			Complete		Incomplete		No Response				
Directorate	Made	Accepted	Implemented	Superseded	Being Implemented	Not Implemented	Action Date Passed	Future Action Date	% Complete	% Incomplete	% Not Known
Significant											
Chief Executives	41	41	28	3	6			4	75.6%	14.6%	9.8%
Children & Young People	23	23	20				3		87.0%		13.0%
Resources	173	173	130	22	15		2	4	87.9%	8.7%	3.5%
Neighbourhoods	42	42	35	4	2		1		92.9%	4.8%	2.4%
Adult, Health & Housing	31	31	31						100.0%		
Totals	310	310	244	29	23		6	8	88.1%	7.4%	4.5%
				Merits	S Attention						
Chief Executives	48	48	41	1	4			2	87.5%	8.3%	4.2%
Children & Young People	43	43	33	6			4		90.7%		9.3%
Resources	221	221	170	15	28		6	2	83.7%	12.7%	3.6%
Neighbourhoods	70	70	64	2	3		1		94.3%	4.3%	1.4%
Adult, Health & Housing	26	26	26						100.0%		
Totals	408	408	334	24	35		11	4	87.7%	8.6%	3.7%

			Complete		Incomplete		No Response				
Directorate	Made	Accepted	Implemented	Superseded	Being Implemented	Not Implemented	Action Date Passed	Future Action Date	% Complete	% Incomplete	% Not Known
All Recommendations											
Chief Executives	89	89	69	4	10			6	82.0%	11.2%	6.7%
Children & Young People	66	66	53	6			7		89.4%		10.6%
Resources	394	394	300	37	43		8	6	85.5%	10.9%	3.6%
Neighbourhoods	112	112	99	6	5		2		93.8%	4.5%	1.8%
Adult, Health & Housing	57	57	57						100.0%		
Totals	718	718	578	53	58		17	12	87.9%	8.1%	4.0%