

Internal Audit – Follow-up of Audit Recommendations

SUMMARY

- 1.1 Of the 506 audit recommendations made between 1 September 2009 and 28 February 2011:
- 444 have been implemented (87.7%).
 - 33 have been superseded by events (6.5%).
 - 23 are still in the process of being implemented (4.5%).
 - 0 are now not going to be implemented (0%).
 - 4 have passed their agreed implementation date, but we have been unable to obtain progress information (0.8%).
 - 2 have not yet reached their agreed implementation dates (0.4%).

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 September 2009 and 28 February 2011, 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 August 2009.
- 4.5 We have not included the recommendations made in audit reports issued since 1 March 2011. 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	n/a
Financial officer	n/a
Human Resources officer	n/a
Service Director(s)	n/a
Other(s)	Richard Boneham, Head of Governance and Assurance

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Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 - Implications Appendix 2 - Summary report of implementation status Appendix 3 - Recommendations not yet implemented (Exempt)

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

1.1 None directly arising.

Legal

2.1 Under the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011, the Council is required to undertake an adequate and effective internal audit of its accounting records and of its system of internal control in accordance with the proper practices in relation to internal control.

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 September 2009 and 28 February 2011											
Directorate	Made	Accepted	Complete		Incomplete		No Response		% Complete	% Incomplete	% Not Known
			Implemented	Superseded	Being Implemented	Not Implemented	Action Date Passed	Future Action Date			
Significant											
Chief Executives	32	32	29		3				90.6%	9.4%	
Children & Young People	12	12	12						100.0%		
Resources	124	124	112	8	2		2		96.8%	1.6%	1.6%
Neighbourhoods	44	44	39	1	4				90.9%	9.1%	
Adult, Health & Housing	32	32	32						100.0%		
Totals	244	244	224	9	9		2		95.5%	3.7%	0.8%
Merits Attention											
Chief Executives	13	13	13						100.0%		
Children & Young People	20	20	14	6					100.0%		
Resources	154	154	123	15	12		2	2	89.6%	7.8%	2.6%
Neighbourhoods	53	53	49	2	2				96.2%	3.8%	
Adult, Health & Housing	22	22	21	1					100.0%		
Totals	262	262	220	24	14		2	2	93.1%	5.3%	1.5%
All Recommendations											
Chief Executives	45	45	42		3				93.3%	6.7%	
Children & Young People	32	32	26	6					100.0%		
Resources	278	278	235	23	14		4	2	92.8%	5.0%	2.2%
Neighbourhoods	97	97	88	3	6				93.8%	6.2%	
Adult, Health & Housing	54	54	53	1					100.0%		
Totals	506	506	444	33	23		4	2	94.3%	4.5%	1.2%