

Annual Governance Reports – Action Plan

Appendix A

Recommendation	Responsibility	Agreed	Comments	Date
R1 Ensure the appropriate skills, capacity and information systems are in place to meet the capital accounting requirements	Chief Accountant	Yes	Interim staff with significant year end and capital accounting experience have been recruited to review historic capital accounting issues and ensure the harmonisation of accounting practices are satisfactorily undertaken.	Ongoing
R2 Ensure that in implementing the new housing benefits system and training staff in its use, the problems that have led to the qualification of these claims in previous years are addressed	Assistant Director Business Transformation and Customer Services	Yes	<p>Increased automation provided through the system will aid the reduction in qualification issues but with the system going live some three quarters of the way through the current year the full benefit will not be recognised or achieved until the audit of the 2010/11 subsidy claim.</p> <p>Staff have received substantial training following the 2007/08 claim issues and it is recognised that a combination of the system and the training should have substantive impact in addressing the issues previously identified. The subsidy claim for 2008/9 is nearing completion and has far fewer issues than the previous year.</p>	Ongoing
R3 Monitor progress on implementing the IFRS plan to enable the Council to meet the new reporting requirements under IFRS	Chief Accountant	Yes	Individual project teams dealing with IFRS issues have been established and are developing delivery plans to prepare for IFRS. As part of this process they are expected to report back to Corporate Resources Leadership Team in July 2010. A further report on IFRS will be taken to the next Audit Committee meeting.	Ongoing
R4 Continue to take action to identify the reasons for the 2009/10 projected overspend so that an accurate budget can be set for 2010/11	Assistant Director Finance	Yes	A significant amount of work has been undertaken by the Finance team together with Services to address the 2009/10 forecast overspend. Currently, the actions taken as a consequence have reduced the overspend to £1.3m. This work has been undertaken in parallel with the setting of the 2010/11 budget and there have been a number of base budget adjustments and realignments to ensure that there is an accurate and realistic budget in place for 2010/11. There is a reserves policy in place to reinstate balances to put Central Bedfordshire on a more resilient financial position for the medium term.	31/03/10