

Meeting: Audit Committee
Date: 27th January 2011
Subject: Tracking of Audit Recommendations
Report of: Director of Customer and Shared Services
Summary: This report summarises the high risk recommendations arising from Internal Audit reports and outlines how these will be monitored, tracked and reported to the Audit Committee.

Contact Officer: Kathy Riches, Head of Audit
Public/Exempt: Public (with Appendix 2 exempt)
Wards Affected: All
Function of: Audit Committee

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

An effective internal audit function will indirectly contribute to all of the Council's priorities.

Financial:

Although there are no financial risks from the issues identified in the report, the outcome of implementing audit recommendations is for the Council to enhance internal control, and better manage its risks, thereby increasing protection from adverse events.

Legal:

None arising directly from the report.

Risk Management:

None arising directly from the report.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

None directly from this report.

Equalities/Human Rights:

None directly from this report.

Community Safety:

None directly from this report.

Sustainability:

None directly from this report.

RECOMMENDATION:**That the Audit Committee:**

- 1. Note and comment on the updates as presented.**

Background

1. One of the purposes of the Audit Committee is to provide independent assurance on the adequacy of the risk management framework and the associated control environment.
2. To further strengthen the Audit Committee's role in monitoring the internal control environment within the Council, Internal Audit has developed a system for monitoring and reporting progress against high risk recommendations arising from internal audit inspections.
3. This paper presents a summary of high risk recommendations made to date, along with the progress made against implementation of those recommendations.

Tracking High Risk Recommendations

4. The September Audit Committee received an initial monitoring report. A further update was provided to the Chair of the Audit Committee at the end of October. This report sets out the position as at the end of December 2010.

5. Appendix 1 provides detail of progress made to date in addressing high risk recommendations. The table below provides a summary by Directorate.

	Customer and Shared Services	Children's Services	Sustainable Communities	Social Care Health and Housing	Total	%
No. of reports	15	1	2	1	19	
Recs:						
Completed GREEN	43	5	4	1	53	72
Ongoing-On schedule for completion within timescales GREEN	3	0	0	0	3	4
No work started Within target GREEN	2	0	0	0	2	3
Ongoing with deadline missed AMBER	14	0	1	0	15	20
No work started Deadline missed RED	1	0	0	0	1	1
Total Recs.	63	5	5	1	74	100

Although progress has been made on implementing the high risk recommendations, 20% are ongoing with target missed within the agreed timescales, and one high risk recommendation where action has not yet started.

6. Appendix 2 (Exempt) provides details of high risk recommendations where implementation of the recommendation is running behind planned completion dates.
7. Wherever possible evidence has been obtained to support the implementation of recommendations. However, in some instances, verbal assurance has been obtained. Where this is the case, further evidence will be obtained to support the assurances given.

Future Monitoring

8. Officers responsible for the implementation of recommendations will be contacted regularly to provide updates on progress made. Evidence will be required to support progress made. Where recommendations are ongoing these will continue to be monitored.

Conclusion

9. The continued tracking and reporting of progress on Internal Audit inspections by the Audit Committee will ensure that the Committee has the means to monitor how effectively the high risk recommendations have been implemented.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Details of monitoring of High Risk Internal Audit recommendations (Public)

Appendix 2 - Details on those recommendations that are outstanding (Exempt).

Background Papers:

None

Location of papers: Priory House, Chicksands, Bedfordshire