

Central Bedfordshire Council

AUDIT COMMITTEE

28 September 2015

TRACKING OF INTERNAL AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

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Purpose of this report:

This report summarises the high priority recommendations arising from Internal Audit reports and sets out the progress made in their implementation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to:

1. Consider and comment on the updates, as presented.

Overview and Scrutiny Comments/Recommendations

1. This report is not scheduled to be considered by Overview and Scrutiny, as this is the responsibility of the Audit Committee.

Background

2. 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.
3. 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 priority recommendations arising from internal audit inspections.
4. This paper represents the regular summary of high priority recommendations made to date, along with the progress made against implementation of those recommendations.

Tracking High Priority Recommendations

5. At the time of the last Audit Committee only one high priority recommendation made prior to April 2012 remained outstanding. This related to the 2009/10 SAP Access and Security (including IT Disaster Recovery) audit.
6. As has been previously reported to the Committee, a thorough review of the existing data centre provisioning at CBC is in progress. It is anticipated that there will be significant changes made in the technologies in use and how they are supported. ICT undertakes to deliver a refreshed and renewed DR plan by the autumn of 2015.
7. There are no outstanding audit recommendations relating to reports issued during 2010/11, 2011/12 or 2012/13.
8. Only 3 high priority recommendations made during 2013/14 and 2014/15 are now outstanding. Appendix A provides the details of the recommendations that are running behind the planned completion dates. Included are two recommendations relating to Teachers' Pensions which are now substantially implemented. The progress made is set out in the appendix. These recommendations will be removed from future tracking reports, subject to the outcome of the external audit of the Teachers' Pension return, which will be undertaken later in the year.
9. 3 reports containing high priority recommendations have been issued during 2015/16 to date. 5 high priority recommendations have been made. These are summarised at Appendix B. None of these recommendations are currently behind schedule.
10. Wherever possible evidence has been obtained to verify 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.
11. Progress will continue to be monitored. The follow up of audit recommendations forms an integral part of the fundamental system audit reviews.

Future Monitoring

12. 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 still being implemented these will continue to be monitored.

Council Priorities

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

Corporate Implications

Legal Implications

14. None directly from this report.

Financial Implications

15. Although there are no direct 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.

Equalities Implications

16. None directly from this report.

Conclusion and next Steps

17. Further work is required to ensure that the outstanding recommendations are implemented and to monitor additional recommendations made during the year.

18. This continuous tracking and reporting of progress on Internal Audit inspections to the Audit Committee ensures that the Committee has the means to monitor how effectively the high priority recommendations have been implemented.

Appendices

Appendix A – Details of recommendations made during 2013/14 and 2014/15 that remain outstanding

Appendix B – Summary of monitoring of High Priority Internal Audit recommendations - Reports issued during 2015/16

Background Papers

None