

Agenda Item: 10

Meeting: Audit Committee

Date: 29 June 2009

Subject: 2008/09 Internal Audit Reviews

Report of: Director of Corporate Resources

Summary: The report proposes to present the Audit Committee with the outcomes of the Internal Audit reviews undertaken during 2008/09. This will form part of the evidence required to approve the 2008/09 Annual Governance Statements for the legacy authorities.

Contact Officer: Nick Murley, Assistant Director of Audit and Risk

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: All

Function of: Audit Committee

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **That the Audit Committee notes the outcomes of the Internal Audit reviews undertaken during 2008/09.**

Background

1. The Audit Committee is the governing body charged with monitoring the progress on the work of Internal Audit and Risk and should therefore receive an annual report on how that work was undertaken during the year. This report would describe the internal audit reviews undertaken during the year, the outcome of these reviews and also the number of recommendations made as a result as well as other performance information.
2. As this is not a normal year and because senior members of the legacy authority Internal Audit teams did not transfer into Central Bedfordshire, it has not been possible to produce this level of information. Instead we have decided to provide a summary of the work undertaken by the three teams during 2008/9 and the number of required action points.
3. This will provide the committee with some background information into the work covered by Internal Audit. It also provides Members with some evidence of the internal control and governance arrangements in place across the councils which in turn will provide some confidence when approving the Annual Governance Statements for the legacy authorities, dealt with elsewhere on this agenda.

4. Approximately 100 significant audit reviews were undertaken by the three Internal Audit teams during 2008/09. 368 recommendations were made ranging from high, medium to a low priority. In addition, a number of school toolkit assessments (FMSiS) were undertaken by Bedfordshire County Council.
5. The key issues arising from the reviews has been summarised and is set out in appendix A.
6. The areas of review, together with the assurance rating and number of recommendations, categorised as high, medium or low is set out in appendix B.

Conclusion and Next Steps

7. Not all of the recommendations made as part of these reviews will be relevant to Central Bedfordshire but a large proportion will be.
8. The areas receiving a low assurance rating have been included in the Annual Governance Statements for the legacy authorities which are subject to approval at this committee meeting.
9. The recommendations arising from all of these reviews will be taken into account, where relevant, when the audit briefs for key systems and other specific audits are worked up over the coming months.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS
<p>Council Priorities: The Internal Audit reviews carried out form an important improvement mechanism for service areas when striving to achieve the priorities of the council. Failure to improve on its internal control environment will impact key outputs like the quality of the Statement of Accounts, the Annual Governance Statement and the data integrity of the Best Value Performance Indicators.</p> <p>Financial: None</p> <p>Legal: None</p> <p>Risk Management: None</p> <p>Staffing (including Trades Unions): None</p> <p>Equalities/Human Rights:</p>

None

Community Development/Safety:

None

Sustainability:

None

Appendices:

Appendix A – Schedule of key issues arising from the Internal Audit reviews

Appendix B – Schedule of area reviews undertaken

Background:

None

Location of papers: Priory House, Chicksands