

Agenda Item

REPORT OF Service Improvement Officer
To: Audit & Governance Committee
Subject: Progress with Agreed Actions
Date: 11th July 2017

Reference:

PURPOSE OF REPORT: To provide an update on progress with implementing agreed actions.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Audit & Governance Committee requested a regular report on progress with agreed actions. This report is set out at appendix A.

2. REPORT

A summary of the position as at the 30th June is shown at Appendix A.

Since the Audit & Governance Committee in May 2017 there has been 1 internal audit report issued containing 3 agreed new audit actions. In the same period there have been 16 actions completed by management.

There was 1 internal audit action due for completion by the end of June 2017 which was not completed on time. The responsible officers have been contacted and as a result:

- A second extension has been requested for 1 audit action;

3. IMPLICATIONS

Legal Implications

None

Financial Implications

None

Human Resources Implications

None

Sustainability Implications

None

Equality/Diversity

None

Risk Management

The two key outcomes from an audit are the opinion on the audit subject, which indicates the level of assurance that members can take, and the agreed actions to strengthen the control framework where testing has shown risks are not being adequately managed. The agreed actions are evaluated using the corporate risk matrix and the audit reports include those risks that are medium or high. Low risk or housekeeping matters are reported separately and directly to management for them to manage. The Internal Audit team report on progress in implementing the actions agreed with management to better control high and medium risks.



Compliance with Policies and Strategies

This report complies with the Audit & Governance Committee terms of reference and the Audit Procedures Manual.

Ward Member and Leader Member Views

Consultation date - Councillor Philip Hackett – June 2017.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Since the A&G meeting in May 2017, 3 new actions have been identified in internal audit reports and 16 actions have been completed by management.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

Committee are asked to:

- Note the progress with actions in this Quarter

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Consultations: Jenny Wallace
Steve Hearse
Councillor Philip Hackett
Other officers as required

Contact Officer: Chris Dobbs

Background Papers: Audit files



Appendix A - Progress with Agreed Actions - as at 30th June 2017

Description	Medium Risk	High Risk	Total
Number of scheduled actions on last report (31/03/2017)	36	0	36
Number of new agreed actions this period	3		3
Total agreed actions			39
Actions completed this period	16		16
Archive requests this period			
Balance of scheduled actions (30/06/2017)			23
Number of actions where target date has been missed			1

2nd Extension Requested 1

Number of Scheduled Actions by Service

Service Area	Medium Risk	High Risk	Total
Accountancy Services	0		0
Commercial	0		0
Customer Services	0		1
Governance	1		1
Housing Options	2		2
Human Resources	0		0
ICT	1		1
Legal Services	1		1
Planning	5		5
Property	3		3
Regulatory	0		0
Revenues & Benefits	0		0
Safeguarding	4		4
Waste & Recycling & Community Safety	1		1
Strategic Manager (Services)	5		5
Total o/s actions	23		23
Grant Thornton Action Plan (2016 Audit Findings)	5	Completed	2

Due by 30/06/17	Due by 30/09/17	Due After 30/09/17
	1	
1	1	
	1	
		1
		5
		3
	1	3
	1	
	4	1
1	9	13
3		





Appendix B - Progress with Agreed Actions - as at 30th June 2017

Second Extension Requested

Service	Responsible Officer	Status	Audit	Action Summary	Complete By	Comment
Housing Options	Helen Page	Milestone Missed	Housing Options Audit 2016/17	Grants Scheme	Was 30/12/2016 Now 30/06/2017	The Authority should consider whether non repayable grants to non priority households are sustainable, especially in cases where the applicant may be deemed at fault through their own actions. The use of loans and the prevention fund, as a prevention tool, is currently under review - anecdotal evidence to date suggests that it is more cost effective to loan priority need households money, even when the probability of recovery is unlikely, than cover the cost of securing temporary accommodation. The scheme was due to go to C&R but the meeting was cancelled - is now on the agenda on 31st May 2017. New homeless legislation (Homelessness Reduction Act) is expected to come into force in April 2018, and this legislation may require the Council to alter the criteria for accessing financial interventions, so we have decided to delay going to committee for a few more months to see what further information is released.

