

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

Audit Committee

30 January 2019

INTERNAL AUDIT FOLLOW UP

Report by Chief Internal Auditor (Report No. 19/24)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report presents a current summary of Internal Audit's 'follow up' work.

1. BACKGROUND AND MAIN ISSUES

- 1.1 The Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) require the Chief Internal Auditor to establish a follow-up process to monitor and ensure that management actions have been effectively implemented. To assist the Audit Committee, the appendices to this report provide information on those actions that have not been implemented in accordance with the original agreed timetable, or where there is insufficient information on the current situation. Some dates have been revised and agreed with Services in recognition of the need for more time to complete the actions.
- 1.2 Internal Audit has evaluated evidence provided for actions with an expected completion date of October 2018.
- 1.3 Appendix 1 presents a summary of the number of actions arising from internal and external audit reports.
 - Table 1 shows the total number of actions to be completed arising from Internal Audit reports. These total 48.
 - Table 2 shows the number of actions which have not been completed by their originally agreed date. These total 23, of which 9 had a completion date of September or October 2018 and are therefore detailed in Appendices 2 to 5.
 - A further 14 actions not completed by their original date have been allocated revised dates for completion after October 2018 and progress will be reported on these at a future Committee.
 - The number of actions which have yet to be followed up as their completion date is after October 2018 is 25.
- 1.4 In both tables, the actions are grouped by Service and reported by 'importance' of the agreed actions. The importance of each action is documented in the original Internal Audit reports considered by the Audit Committee. Reported importance ratings range from 'critical', where there are significant financial, reputation, legal, performance, or safety issues, to 'low', where the risks are lower but there may be opportunities for improving processes and procedures. Reports produced by external audit do not explicitly state the importance of each individual action and are therefore included in the tables as 'not rated'.

- 1.5 Appendices 2 to 5 present detailed follow-up information in respect of actions agreed for completion in the period of September and October 2018. Internal Audit's opinion on the implementation of the actions is that, whilst the actions have not been undertaken within the originally agreed timeframe, satisfactory progress is being made.
- 1.6 The Audit Committee has requested information regarding any action with a 'critical' or 'high' risk rating which has not been completed on its originally agreed date. Table two highlights two such instance of 'high' risk actions and relates to the audit on Personalisation in respect of monitoring risk, one of which is included within Appendix 3.

2. PROPOSALS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee seeks assurance that there are clear and achievable action plans for completing the agreed actions noted above.

3 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Audit Committee is asked to consider the most appropriate action to be taken to progress the agreed Action Plans.
- 3.2 It is recommended that the Audit Committee:
- (i) Note the current position in respect of the agreed actions arising from internal and external work; and
 - (ii) Consider the most appropriate action to be taken to progress the agreed action plans, taking into account the recorded audit opinions.

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1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Strategic Implications	Yes / None
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	None
Corporate Plan	Yes
Resource Implications	
Financial	None
Workforce	None
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	None
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	Yes
Strategic Environmental Assessment	None
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	None
Legal and Governance	None
Risk	Yes
Consultation	
Internal	Yes
External	None
Communication	
Communications Plan	None

1. Strategic Implications

Corporate Plan

- 1.1 The Council's Corporate Plan 2018– 2022 lays out five outcome focussed strategic objectives which provide clear strategic direction, inform decisions at a corporate and service level and shape resources allocation. They are as follows:

- (i) Giving every child the best start in life;
- (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens;
- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy;
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and
- (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

- 1.2 This report relates to all of these objectives.

2. Assessments

Equality Impact Assessment

- 2.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties.

- 2.2 The information contained within this report has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) and has been assessed as **not relevant** for the purposes of EqIA.

Risk

- 2.3 There is a risk to the strength of the control environment if the agreed action plans are not carried out in a timely manner.

3. Consultation

Internal

- 3.1 The Chief Executive and the Executive Directors have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

2. BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report.

3. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Summary of Agreed Actions

Appendix 2 – Audit Follow-Up Corporate & Democratic Services

Appendix 3 – Audit Follow-Up Education & Children's Services

Appendix 4 – Audit Follow-Up Health & Social Care Partnership

Appendix 5 – Audit Follow-Up Housing & Environment