

# **PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL**

## **Audit Committee**

**27 March 2019**

### **INTERNAL AUDIT FOLLOW UP**

#### **Report by Chief Internal Auditor (Report No.19/96)**

##### **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 November 2018 to January 2019.
- 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 49.
  - Table 2 shows the number of actions which have not been completed by their originally agreed date. These total 16, of which 6 had a completion date of November 2018 to January 2019 and are therefore detailed in Appendices 2 to 4.
  - A further 10 actions not completed by their original date have been allocated revised dates for completion after January 2019 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 January 2019 is 33.
- 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 4 present detailed follow-up information in respect of actions agreed for completion in the period of November 2018 to January 2019. 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. There are no incomplete actions for Health & Social Care Partnership within the period November 2018 to January 2019.
- 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 these both relate to the audit on Personalisation. One action relates to the development and approval of a Council-wide strategy for Self-Directed Support and the second, in respect of monitoring risk, 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.

### Author

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## 1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

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