

Report of the Chief Auditor

Audit Committee – 14 March 2017

AUDIT COMMITTEE – ACTION TRACKER

Purpose:	This report details the actions recorded by the Audit Committee and response to the actions.
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FOR INFORMATION

1. Introduction

- 1.1 During the course of Audit Committee meetings various actions may be decided which are recorded on the minutes of the meetings.
- 1.2 Until now, the Committee has had no transparency over the outcomes of the actions minuted by the Committee.
- 1.3 Therefore, an Action Tracker has been created which records the decisions taken by the Audit Committee and provides an outcome for each action.
- 1.4 The Action Tracker for the 2015/16 and 2016/17 municipal years are attached in Appendix 1 and 2.
- 1.5 The Action Tracker will be regularly updated and any completed actions will be marked 'CLOSED' and coloured in grey.
- 1.6 The Action Tracker will be reported to each Audit Committee meeting for information.

2. Equality and Engagement Implications

- 2.1 There are no equality and engagement implications associated with this report.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

4. Legal Implications

4.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report

Background Papers: None

Appendix 1 – Action Tracker 2016/17

Appendix 2 – Action Tracker 2015/16

Appendix 1

AUDIT COMMITTEE ACTION TRACKER 2016/17	
Action	Outcome
03/01/17 Min 55 – Wales Audit Office Annual Audit Letter 2015/16	
The Wales Audit Office report regarding the key principles to a strategic approach to setting, increasing or introducing charges for local authority services be circulated to the Committee	The report was circulated on 04/01/17 - CLOSED
13/12/16 Min 45 – Training Presentation Risk Management	
An update on the progress of Risk Management be provided in March	Due to the number of items on the agendas for the meetings in March 2017, the Risk Management update has been included on the agenda for the June 2017 meeting
13/12/16 Min 45 – Training Presentation Risk Management	
The presentation be circulated to the Committee	The presentation was circulated on 21/12/16 - CLOSED
13/12/16 Min 46 – Training Presentation Counter Fraud	
The presentation be circulated to the Committee	The presentation was circulated on 21/12/16 - CLOSED
13/12/16 Min 47 – Commercialism Strategy	
Members of the Committee be invited to attend the forthcoming Headteacher Workshops	An e-mail was sent to the Head of Commercial Services on 11/01/17 to register the interest of members of the Committee in the Headteacher Workshops. When the Workshop date has been agreed, details will be circulated to the Committee.
13/12/16 Min 47 – Commercialism Strategy	
The presentation be circulated to the Committee	The presentation was circulated on 21/12/16 - CLOSED
13/12/16 Min 51 – Corporate Fraud Team Investigation Report	
The Chair writes to the Head of Waste Management to seek assurance that the lessons learned from this investigation have been adopted by the service,	A letter was sent to the Head of Waste Management on 13/01/17 - CLOSED
25/10/16 Min 39 – Annual Report of School Audits 2015/16	
The Head of Commercial Services be invited to the next scheduled meeting to discuss the Service Level Agreement	The Head of Commercial Services attended the meeting on 13/12/16 - CLOSED

Action	Outcome
25/10/16 Min 39 – Annual Report of School Audits 2015/16	
The Chief Education Officer be invited to the next scheduled meeting to discuss the influence the centre can exercise over compliance with procedures by schools	The Chief Education Officer was unable to attend the meetings on 13/12/16, 03/01/17 and 14/02/17 but has been asked to come to the meeting on 14/03/17. The Chair wrote to the Chief Education Officer on 17 February 2017 regarding his attendance at the Audit Committee.
25/10/16 Min 41 – Chair / Wales Audit Office Liaison Meeting	
Confirmation be provided regarding Member access to the Section 106 database	Feedback was provided by the Chief Auditor to the meeting on 03/01/17 and a note circulated to all members.
30/08/16 Min 25 – Internal Audit Monitoring Report Quarter 1 2016/17	
Self-assessment forms for schools be added to school governing body meeting agendas	Self-assessment questionnaire to be added to agenda of governing body clerks forum meeting to be held in January 2017. A reminder will also be circulated to all schools - CLOSED
30/08/16 Min 26 – Corporate Fraud Team Plan 2016/17	
An update be provided to the Committee in 6 months	Update included on agenda for Committee meeting on 28/03/17
21/07/16 Min 18 – Internal Audit Monitoring Report Quarter 4 2015/16	
In future, any delays in receiving a response from a service to a draft internal audit report be reported to the Committee.	Any delay in receiving a response to a draft internal audit report will be included in the quarterly Internal Audit Monitoring Report - CLOSED
21/07/16 Min 18 – Internal Audit Monitoring Report Quarter 4 2015/16	
The Chief Auditor contacts the Head of Human Resources and Organisational Development in order to discuss the procedure regarding de-activating flexi-cards when an employee ends employment with the Authority	When an employee leaves, the line manager is required to complete an exit interview checklist. One of the items on the checklist is to re-cover the employee's flexi card and return it to HR for cancellation - CLOSED
21/07/16 Min 18 – Internal Audit Monitoring Report Quarter 4 2015/16	
The Chair writes to the Head of Service where an audit has received a moderate level of assurance for a second audit to express the Committee's concern that there has been no improvement in the controls in operation.	Letters sent 05/08/16 and copies reported to Audit Committee on 30/08/16 for information - CLOSED

Action	Outcome
28/06/16 Min 8 – Corporate Governance Review Report	
The recommendations contained within the report be regularly monitored and where appropriate feedback be provided by the Deputy Head of Legal and Democratic Services	The recommendations included in the Corporate Governance report as well as those arising from the WAO's Corporate Assessment and the Peer Review are being monitored on a regular basis by the Corporate Management Team. Work is progressing to implement the recommendations and will continue to be monitored by the Interim Head of Legal and Democratic Services
28/06/16 Min 9 - Certification of Grants and Returns 2013/14 and 2014/15	
All Responsible Officers be advised and reminded of the external auditors findings and the obligation to maintain at all times adequate and complete records to support future grant certification claims	E-mail sent to all Heads of Service by Chief Finance and Deputy Section 151 Officer on 30/06/16. The e-mail; highlighted the relevant issues and the external auditor's grants report was attached - CLOSED
28/06/16 Min 9 - Certification of Grants and Returns 2013/14 and 2014/15	
A letter be circulated to schools highlighting the need to retain relevant paperwork in relation to grants claimed in order to prove if the funding was used appropriately.	The Chair wrote to Chief Education Officer on 05/08/16 asking for the issues to be brought to the attention of schools and an e-mail was sent to all schools on 09/11/16 - CLOSED
28/06/16 Min 11 – YGG Lon Las Draft Response to Cabinet	
Additional comments be forwarded to the Chair/Chief Auditor	No further comments were received - CLOSED
28/06/16 Min 11 – YGG Lon Las Draft Response to Cabinet	
The updated report be forwarded to Cabinet	Report was presented to Cabinet on 19/01/17 - CLOSED
28/06/16 Min 12 – Final Audit Committee Annual Report 2015/16	
The Audit Committee Annual Report 2015/16 be approved and be presented to Council in July/August 2016	Report was presented to Council on 22/09/16 - CLOSED
14/06/16 Min 5 – Audit Committee Training	
The training presentations regarding risk management and counter fraud be deferred to a future Audit Committee meeting	Training presentations delivered at meeting on 13 December 2016 - CLOSED

Appendix 2

AUDIT COMMITTEE ACTION TRACKER 2015/16	
Action	Outcome
19/04/16 Min 79 – Internal Audit Charter 2016/17	
The Chief Auditor investigates the success of Housing Benefit prosecutions since the service was transferred to the DWP	Response provided to Committee on 14/06/16 - CLOSED
22/03/16 Min 72 – New Build for YGG Lon Las – Referral from Cabinet	
The Chair/Chief Auditor draft a report summarising the key lessons to be learned for consideration by the Audit Committee prior to being submitted to Cabinet	Draft report presented to Committee on 28/06/16 - CLOSED
16/02/16 Min 63 - Risk Management Update	
The Chair and Head of Finance and Delivery draft a response to the Welsh Government regarding the late announcement of funding	Not pursued as the impact of the late announcement had been strongly made to the Welsh Government by the WLGA - CLOSED
16/02/16 Min 63 - Risk Management Update	
The Head of Legal and Democratic Services be requested to consider Councillor access to the risk register in the forthcoming Governance Review Report	Corporate Director (Resources) to prepare report on Councillor access to risk register for consideration by Corporate Management Team as part of the current review of the Risk Management Policy and Framework
16/02/16 Min 64 – Recommendations Tracker Report 2014/15	
An update report on the level of write offs be added to the Workplan	Update provided to Audit Committee on 25/10/16 - CLOSED
16/02/16 Min 65 – Internal Audit Monitoring Report Quarter 3 2015/16	
The impact of high sickness levels for Internal Audit compared to previous years be provided to the Committee	Included in Quarter 4 Monitoring Report to meeting on 21/07/06 - CLOSED
16/02/16 Min 67 – Audit Committee Self-Assessment of Good Practice Questionnaire	
The completed Questionnaire be used as the basis for the Audit Committee Annual Report 2015/16	Questionnaire was used for Annual Report 2015/16 presented to Committee on 28/06/16 - CLOSED
16/02/16 Min 70 – YGG Lon Las Lessons Learned – Referral from Cabinet	
Item be deferred to a Special Meeting of the Audit Committee	Report presented to Special Meeting held on 22 March 2016 - CLOSED
15/12/15 Min 52 – Briefing Cabinet Advisory Committee	
The Leader be invited to a future meeting in order to provide an update report	Update provided to the Audit Committee meeting on 03/01/17 - CLOSED

Action	Outcome
15/12/15 Min 53 – Chair Scrutiny Programme Committee	
The Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee be invited to a future meeting in order to provide an update report	Included in Workplan for meeting on 28/03/17
15/12/15 Min 56 – Risk Management Update	
A more detailed report be presented to a future meeting	The Head of Finance and Delivery provided a more detailed report to the meeting on 16/02/16 - CLOSED
15/12/15 Min 56 – Risk Management Update	
The Chief Auditor circulates the link to access the risk procedure details on the Council website	See 16/02/16 Min 63 Risk Management Update below - CLOSED
17/11/15 Min 47 – Housing Benefit Investigation Team Annual Report 2014/15	
An interim report be provided in 6 months	Corporate Fraud Team Annual Report was presented to Audit Committee on 30/08/16 - CLOSED
17/11/15 Min 48 – Internal Audit Monitoring Report Quarter 2 2015/16	
The Chair writes to the Chief Social Services Officer regarding the 4 moderate audit ratings in Adult Services	Letter sent 30/11/15 and Chair met Head of Adult Services on 16/12/15 - CLOSED
17/11/15 Min 48 – Internal Audit Monitoring Report Quarter 2 2015/16	
The Chair writes to the Head of Transportation and Highways regarding the Streetworks audit which received a moderate level of assurance	Letter sent 30/11/15 and Chair met Head of transportation and highways on 22/12/15 - CLOSED
17/11/15 Min 48 – Internal Audit Monitoring Report Quarter 2 2015/16	
The Chief Auditor circulates the details of the Section 106 Agreements follow up audit to the Committee	Details circulated 19/11/15 - CLOSED
17/11/15 Min 48 – Internal Audit Monitoring Report Quarter 2 2015/16	
The Chief Auditor circulates the link to the Section 106 Agreements database to the Committee	Link circulated 22/12/15 - CLOSED
20/10/15 Min 37 – Chair of Scrutiny Programme Committee	
The Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee be invited to the Audit Committee meeting scheduled for 15 December 2015	The Chair of the Scrutiny Programme Committee attended the Audit Committee meeting on 15 December 2015 - CLOSED
20/10/15 Min 38 – Corporate Governance Review – Update	
Rod Alcott be invited to attend the Special Audit Committee on 17 November 2015 in order to present the draft report	Report presented to Committee on 28/06/16 - CLOSED
20/10/15 Min 39 – Annual Report of School Audits 2014/15	
A review be undertaken to ensure that school audit reports are placed upon school governor meeting agendas	The review was reported to the Audit Committee on 25/10/16 - CLOSED

Action	Outcome
20/10/15 Min 40 – Audit Committee Annual Report 2014/15 Follow Up	
The Chief Auditor circulates the Audit Committee Knowledge and Skills Framework questionnaire to the Committee.	Framework circulated 19/11/15 - CLOSED
18/08/15 Min 17 - Presentation Corporate Fraud Team	
The Corporate Fraud Team Manager provides a future update report to the Committee	Corporate Fraud Team Annual report was presented to Audit Committee on 30/08/16 - CLOSED
18/08/15 Min 20 - WAO Audit of Financial Statements Progress Report	
A Special Audit Committee be scheduled between 17 and 24 September 2015 in order to discuss the Final Audit Report	Special meeting held on 21/09/15 - CLOSED
16/06/15 Min 9 - Internal Audit Monitoring Report Quarter 4 2014/15	
An update report regarding Section 106 Agreements be provided at the next scheduled meeting	Head of Economic Regeneration and Planning provided a report on 18/08/15 – CLOSED