



Report of the Chief Auditor

Audit Committee – 9 February 2021

Internal Audit Recommendation Follow-Up Report Quarter 3 2020/21

Purpose:	This report provides committee with the status of the recommendations made in those audits where the follow-up's has been undertaken in Q3 2020/21, to allow the Audit Committee to monitor the implementation of recommendations made by Internal Audit.
Recommendation:	That the Audit Committee Members note the information contained in this report.
Policy Framework:	None
Consultation:	Legal, Finance and Access to Services
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Legal Officer:	Debbie Smith
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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Audit Committee's Performance Review for 2017/18 was completed in June 2018. One of the recommendations arising from the review was in relation to the tracking of the recommendations made by Internal and External Audit.
- 1.2 This report provides an overview of how recommendations made by Internal and External Audit are tracked and followed-up.

2. Standard Follow-up Procedures

- 2.1 An amended internal audit follow-up procedure was introduced in 2014 as a result of concerns being raised over the failure of management to implement audit recommendations.
- 2.2 The current procedures identify two methods of following-up on the implementation of recommendations made as a result of internal audit reviews for the fundamental audits and non-fundamental audits.

3. Fundamental Audits

- 3.1 These audits are undertaken on a yearly or two-yearly cycle. All fundamental audits are subject to a Recommendation Tracker Exercise each year, which is normally completed as at the end of September.
- 3.2 The exercise involves discussion with the client department to go through the agreed Action Plan together with a limited amount of testing to confirm whether the recommendations have been implemented.
- 3.3 The results of the Recommendation Tracker Exercise is reported to Audit Committee in a separate Recommendation Tracker report.

4. Non-fundamental Audits

- 4.1 All other audits that have been given a 'limited' or 'moderate' level of assurance are reported to Audit Committee as part of the Quarterly Monitoring Reports. All such audits are subject to a detailed follow-up visit within 6 months of the issue of the final report.
- 4.2 The follow-up visit concentrates on 'high risk' and 'medium risk' recommendations, and will include discussion with the client department and limited testing to confirm implementation.
- 4.3 The results of the follow-up visit are reported to Audit Committee as part of the Quarterly Monitoring Reports.
- 4.4 Where an audit has been given a 'high' or 'substantial' level of assurance, client departments are asked to confirm the implementation of the recommendations via e-mail.
- 4.5 The results of all follow-up's undertaken are logged and recorded on the Audit Management System (Galileo) to ensure completion is monitored appropriately.

5. Chief Auditors Group PI's

- 5.1 Following discussions at the Welsh Chief Auditors Group Meeting in October 2018, it was decided that a new Performance Indicator (PI) should be introduced to record the number of recommendations that

have been implemented as a percentage of those recommendations made. Note that this has not been introduced for 2018/19. It is envisaged that the new process that we have introduced from April 2019 will allow these details to be recorded.

6. External Audit Recommendation Tracking

- 6.1 Whilst it is not practicable to track every external audit recommendation without additional resources and a suitable ICT solution, Scrutiny Programme Committee will receive WAO audit reports and action plans to address recommendations and proposals and will review progress against recommendations within 12 months of the receipt of the report and action plan as their work plan allows. Audit Committee will also receive reports and action plans for information and it may decide that it wants to prioritise and track specific proposals / recommendations in addition to the oversight undertaken by Scrutiny. This does not include those WAO reports that would be intended specifically for Audit Committee.

7. Status of Implementation Update to Committee

- 7.1 The purpose of this report is to allow committee to monitor the implementation status for those audits that have been subject to a follow-up review in the quarter. This will include all follow-ups completed, except for the fundamental audits as the outcome of these follow-up reviews are reported to committee separately.

8. Equality and Engagement Implications

- 8.1 The Council is subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty (Wales) and must, in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

Our Equality Impact Assessment process ensures that we have paid due regard to the above.

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

9. Financial Implications

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

10. Legal Implications

10.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report

Background Papers: None

Appendix 1 – Summary - Recommendations accepted and implemented.

Appendix 2 – Details of recommendations not implemented.