
REPORT TO:	Management Board Audit & Governance Committee
DATE:	30 th August 2022 12 th September 2022
SERVICE AREA:	Finance (Audit Services)
REPORTING OFFICER:	Audit Services and Fraud Manager (<i>Alison Johnson</i>)
SUBJECT:	Internal Audit Recommendation Report
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL DISTRICT
FORWARD PLAN REF:	N/A

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide a snapshot of the current audit recommendation implementation position. This includes a detailed report of outstanding priority one recommendations, a detailed report of aged priority two and three recommendations, a detailed report of recommendations completed in the period and a summary of outstanding recommendations. There was no requirement to include recommendations whereby management had accepted the risks identified as all were agreed and closed.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the contents of the report and appendices are noted.

Appendix 1 – Outstanding Priority One Internal Audit Recommendations
Appendix 1b – Outstanding Priority Two and Three Audit Recommendations
Appendix 2 – Internal Audit Recommendation Movements in the Period
Appendix 3 – Summary of All Outstanding Internal Audit Recommendations

3.0 RECOMMENDED REASON FOR DECISION

- 3.1 To ensure that Management Board and the Audit and Governance Committee are informed on the progress of the implementation of recommendations made and the mitigation of risks highlighted through the audit process.

4.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTION CONSIDERED AND RECOMMENDED FOR REJECTION

4.1 There is no alternative.

5.0 THE REPORT

5.1 Where weaknesses in controls have been identified during the course of an audit assignment, these are reported to the relevant service manager with an implementation date being set and agreed based on the priority required. This report shows progress made by services towards completion of audit recommendations made during the period

5.2 In light of the Local Government Reorganisation, it has been recognised that some recommended actions will not be practicable to undertake in the short-term. Audit Services are now working with Services to close down all recommendations before the 31st March, including a new option of putting the recommendation on hold due to LGR, this means that post 1st April 2023 these areas of unmitigated risk found through previous audit work can be monitored and reviewed.

5.3 Appendix 1b is a summary of priority 2 and priority 3 recommendations that have been overdue for some time. It has been included in the report to highlight recommendations not normally reported on in detail, but where a number have become aged and updates have been requested but not fully responded to. Other outstanding priority 2 and 3 recommendations identified in appendix 3 have not been included in appendix 1b where they are not yet of concern.

5.4 Appendix 1b was included in the report for the first time in September 2021 and included 9 recommendations. It is being included in this report to highlight progress made on the recommendations since September. This report shows satisfactory completion of six recommended actions. This leaves three remaining. Discussions between the service responsible and Audit are continuing with an aim of concluding the open issues.

6.0 REQUIRED ASSESSMENTS AND IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The following were considered: Financial Implications; Human Resources Implications; Legal Implications; ICT Implications; Strategic Property/Asset Management Considerations; Risk Assessment; Equality and Diversity (the Public Sector Equality Duty and impact upon people with protected characteristics). If applicable, the outcomes of any consultations, assessments, considerations and implications considered necessary during preparation of this report are detailed below.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Progress has been made in the implementation of recommendation however there are small number that are outstanding and requiring action.

OFFICER CONTACT: Please contact Gill Hoyes, Auditor if you require any further information on the contents of this report. The officer can be contacted at *Audit Services, PO Bo 787, Harrogate, HG1 9RW*, 01423-500600 ext. 58584 or by e-mail – Gill.Hoyes@harrogate.gov.uk