
AUDIT IMPROVEMENT ACTION PLANS

Purpose of Report

1. To review the progress made in implementing the recommendations agreed in Improvement Action Plans arising from both External and Internal Audit reports.

Background

2. This report considers recommendations agreed to be implemented by 31st July, 2006. The report considers both External Audit work together with Internal Audit recommendations from audit assignments classed in the highest priority categories.

Information and Analysis

External Audit Action Plans

3. PricewaterhouseCoopers have commented as follows:

“There is nothing we wish to bring to your attention on this matter this quarter.”

Internal Audit Action Plans

4. Only recommendations categorised as priority ‘High’ and ‘Medium’ are included. These relate to issues considered to have fundamental or significant control issues.
5. The only areas where recommendations have not been fully implemented are as follows:

Development & Environment

Contracts- Highways and Bridges. and Project, Cost and Commissioning

6. It was agreed that delays in the signing of contracts would be monitored and the reasons examined to inform a general review of contract signing arrangements to be incorporated within a wider review of Contract Procedure Rules. This review of Contract Procedure Rules was originally intended to be completed by the Spring of 2006. This timescale has not been met. However, a review of the Rules will be required to reflect any modernisation of the Council’s procurement processes that derive from the current Leading Edge Procurement Project and contract signing arrangements will be included in this review. Completion of this exercise is now, therefore, to accord with the timescales of that project.

Legal Implications

7. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

8. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

Recommendations

9. It is recommended that the report detailing current progress in implementing Audit Improvement Action Plans be noted.

Brian James
Chief Internal Auditor

Background Papers

Departmental Responses to Audit Services Quarterly Follow-Up of Audit Recommendations.

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