

Audit Committee

4 April 2013



Action Plan 2011/12 Audit of Accounts - Update

Report of Don McLure, Corporate Director Resources

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the progress on implementation of the Action Plan from the agreed recommendations for improving control weaknesses incorporated in the External Auditor's 2011/12 Interim and Final Governance Reports.
- 2 The Action Plan, which was reported to Members in November, is being used by management for monitoring purposes and as agreed at that Committee, this report forms part of regular reporting leading to the approval of the Statement of Accounts for 2012/13.
- 3 The report is presented in accordance with paragraph 4.1.26 of the Committee's Operational Terms of Reference, "to monitor progress made by management in response to both internal and external audit findings and recommendations".

Background

- 4 In July, when the Statement of Accounts was reported to the Committee, it was agreed that an Action Plan based on the findings of the External Audit's Interim and Annual Governance reports which were presented to the Committee in May and September respectively, would be drawn up and reported to the Committee.
- 5 Responsibility for the actions then agreed have, where appropriate, been amended to a more appropriate officer from those recorded in the version reported to Committee in September.
- 6 The Action Plan has been incorporated into the Resources Performance Management Framework. Progress on the Plan is being monitored by the Resources Policy Performance and Planning Manager and this report gives an update on progress.

The Action Plan

- 7 An updated action plan incorporating progress made to date is included at Appendix 2.
- 8 All recommendations have a response to the Auditor's findings and an action plan to remedy the weakness identified. In many cases the weakness has now been addressed; these recommendations are marked as complete.
- 9 Actions that are complete require evidence to assure the Corporate Director Resources and External Audit that the recommendation has been implemented. This has now been identified and made available in most cases.
- 10 As the remaining recommendations are considered by officers in more detail, there will be discussions with External Audit to ensure that the controls and procedures, either in place, or to be implemented are in line with the Auditor's expectations.
- 11 It is possible however, that not all recommendations will be implemented in full. Any such variations will be agreed with the Corporate Director Resources and the reasons discussed with the External Auditor.

Summary of Progress

Interim Governance Report (IGR)

- 12 The following table shows the progress towards implementing the External Audit recommendations from the IGR.

IGR	Total number of Actions	Actions Outstanding	Actions Completed	Evidence provided
As at 22 November 2012				
Actions from 2010/11	19	9	10	0
New Actions for 2011/12	33	10	23	0
	52	19	33	0
As at 11 February 2013				
Actions from 2010/11	19	6	13	9
New Actions for 2011/12	33	4	29	24
	52	10	42	33
As at 18 March 2013				
Actions from 2010/11	19	2*	17	13
New Actions for 2011/12	33	2	31	28
	52	4	48	41

* One outstanding action has a completion date 30 September 2014.

- 13 The above table shows that a further 6 of the recommended actions have been completed since the February report, and evidence has now been provided for 41 of the 48 completed actions.

Annual Governance Report (AGR)

- 14 Of the 6 recommendations detailed in the AGR, two were due to be complete by 28 February 2013.
- 15 Recommendation 1 – Revaluations – Schools, is now complete. Valuations have been received in line with the requirements of the Rolling Programme.
- 16 Recommendation 3 – Asset Register – Migration of Housing Dwellings is partly complete. Two of the three former Districts’ Housing Assets have been successfully migrated into the Single Asset Register; the third is currently with CIPFA to be processed. It is anticipated that this will be completed, subject to any delays at CIPFA, by 31 March 2013. This delay will not affect the completion of the Statement of Accounts.
- 17 Work is on-going to put in place procedures to implement the remaining recommendations by their due date.
- 18 The monitoring of progress will continue through the Resources Performance Management Framework.

Recommendation and reasons

- 19 Members are asked to note the updated action plan attached at Appendix 2 and to gain assurance that control weaknesses identified through the final account audit process are being appropriately addressed.

Background papers

- (a) Audit Committee – 22 November 2012 – Action Plan - 2011/12 Audit of Accounts
- (b) Audit Committee – 22 February 2013 – Action Plan - 2011/12 Audit of Accounts - Update

Appendix 1: Implications

Finance –

None

Staffing -

None

Risk -

None

Equality and Diversity -

None

Accommodation -

None

Crime and Disorder -

None

Human Rights -

None

Consultation -

None

Procurement -

None

Disability Discrimination Act -

None

Legal Implications -

None