

WIRRAL COUNCIL

AUDIT AND RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

28 SEPTEMBER 2011

SUBJECT:	UPDATE ON AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO LAW, HR AND ASSET MANAGEMENT
WARD/S AFFECTED:	NONE
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF LAW, HR AND ASSET MANAGEMENT
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	ADRIAN JONES CORPORATE RESOURCES
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The purpose of this report is provide an update to the Audit and Risk Management Committee, as requested at its meeting on 30 June 2011, of the actions taken and to be taken in relation to various Internal Audit and External Audit recommendations that were reported to be outstanding.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

2.1 That the Audit and Risk Management Committee notes the details of the actions taken and to be taken in relation to the outstanding Internal and External Audit recommendations within the Department of Law, HR and Asset Management set out in the Schedule at Appendix 1 to this report.

3.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

3.1 The Audit and Risk Committee on 30 June requested that details be provided of the actions taken and to be taken in relation to various Internal Audit and External Audit recommendations that were reported to be outstanding within the Department of Law, HR and Asset Management. The recommendation asks that the Committee notes the update and details provided.

4.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

4.1 The Council's Internal Audit and the Audit Commission undertake annual and periodical inspections of the Council and its service areas throughout each financial year. The purpose of such inspections is in essence to evaluate and assess how effective Council mechanisms, processes, practices and procedures are in assisting the Council mitigate risks when discharging its obligations, duties and responsibilities.

- 4.2 Subject to the outcome of an inspection by either Internal Audit or the Audit Commission, recommendations for improvement may be proposed which, if implemented, are intended to assist the Council reduce its exposure to risk and improve service delivery.
- 4.3 The Schedule at Appendix 1 details those recommendations relating to the Department of Law, HR and Asset Management that were purported as outstanding at the date of the last meeting of the Audit and Risk Management Committee (30 June 2011). The Schedule also details the actions and steps taken to address the recommendations and identifies those that remain outstanding and the proposed course of action to be taken to address them.
- 4.4 Discussions have been held with the Council's Internal Audit who will undertake follow up action in relation to all Internal Audit recommendations and report upon the same to the next meeting of the Audit and Risk Management Committee in December 2011.
- 4.5 Very helpful discussions have been held with the Audit Commission to ensure that all outstanding recommendations were reviewed and any actions outstanding addressed. It should be noted that the review revealed that the vast majority of the Audit Commission recommendations had in fact already been implemented prior to the Committee's meeting on 30 June.
- 4.6 To ensure that audit recommendation are implemented in a timely manner, the Schedule set out at Appendix 1 will be updated with any new audit recommendations made by the Council's Internal Audit or the Audit Commission and monitored regularly by the Director of Law, HR and Asset Management and relevant Heads of Service to ensure that all recommendations are implemented effectively and promptly.

5.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 5.1 It is important that any risks identified are mitigated as soon as practicable possible to avoid unnecessary challenges and liabilities arising. Effective risk management also enables a more effective service to be provided.
- 5.2 The risks identified in the various Internal Audit and Audit Commission recommendations have been substantially addressed and of those that remain outstanding a course of action has been agreed and is being followed to address them.

6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 6.1 No other options were considered.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The actions and measures taken and to be taken to address the outstanding Internal Audit and Audit Commission recommendations have been discussed with both the Council's Internal Audit and Audit Commission.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

8.1 There are no such implications arising.

9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

9.1 There are no such identified implications arising.

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The Council should mitigate risks so as to limit its exposure to legal challenge and liability.

11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no such implications arising.

11.2 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

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|---------------------------------------|-----|
| (a) Is an EIA required? | No |
| (b) If 'yes', has one been completed? | N/a |

12.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There are no such implications arising.

13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

13.1 There are such implications arising.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Schedule of Internal Audit and Audit Commission Recommendations for the Department of Law, HR and Asset Management

REFERENCE MATERIAL

None

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Audit and Risk management Committee	30 June 2011