



GA.22 14/15

Governance & Audit
Committee

Date 25/9/2014

Subject: Update on outstanding recommendations for Limited Assurances

Report by:

Russell Stone

Contact Officer:

Tracey Bircumshaw
Group Accountant
01427676560
Tracey.Bircumshaw@west-lindsey.gov.uk

Purpose / Summary:

Update outstanding audit recommendations made in areas where limited assurance has been achieved.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

- 1) That Members seek assurance that outstanding audit actions are being managed appropriately.

IMPLICATIONS

Legal: None arising as a result of this report.

Financial FIN/56/15: None arising as a result of this report.

Staffing : None arising as a result of this report.

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights : None arising as a result of this report.

Risk Assessment : This report is for information only

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities : None arising as a result of this report.

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

Yes

No

Key Decision:

Yes

No

Background

At the Governance and Audit committee on the 26th June 2014 a report was requested providing an update on progress against the recommendations made in audits receiving limited assurance ratings.

The information at that time is reproduced below:

AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS - STATUS AS AT JUNE 2014

Audit Area	Date	Assurance	Number of Recs	Implem'd	Outstanding			Not Yet Due
					High	Medium	Low	
IT Security	Aug-13	Limited	15	11	3	1	0	
Partnership Management	Feb-14	Limited	6	1	3	1	0	1 (M)
Project Management	Feb-14	Limited	8	4	0	1	0	2 (H) 1 Not Agreed
Asset Management – Utilisation and Disposal	Feb-14	Limited	9	0	0	0	0	6 (H) 3 (M)
NNDR – Growth Project	Mar-14	Limited	5	1	0	0	0	4 (H)
Creditors	Draft	Limited	3	0	0	0	0	1 (H) 2 (M)
Total			46	17	6	3	0	20

Based on the information contained on Minerva an updated table is shown below:

AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS - CURRENT STATUS

Audit Area	Date	Assurance	Number of Recs	Implem'd	Outstanding			
					High	Medium	Low	
IT Security	Aug-13	Limited	15	11	3	1	0	
Partnership Management	Feb-14	Limited	6	1	3	2	0	
Project Management	Feb-14	Limited	8	4	2	1	0	1 Not Agreed
Asset Management – Utilisation and Disposal	Feb-14	Limited	9	1	6	2	0	
NNDR – Growth Project	Mar-14	Limited	5	4	1	0	0	
Creditors	Draft	Limited	3	3	0	0	0	
Total			46	24	15	6	0	1

This table shows that progress has been made in a number of areas with 7 recommendations being completed. This includes the completion of all recommendations for the Creditors audit; 3 out of 4 previously not due recommendations relating to NNDR – Growth projects and 1 recommendation for asset management (also previously not due).

As a total of 19 recommendations previously not due have become due the number of outstanding recommendations has increased from 9 to 21. Of these 21 recommendations 15 are high priority and 6 medium priority.

A short update is provided below for each of the remaining 'limited assurance' audit areas.

ICT Security – Required policies are now in place, but confirmation needed that:

- Business continuity arrangements are finalised and agreed
- There are detailed plans to help resumption including test schedules

Partnership Management

- Awaiting adoption and communication of the ACoP to ensure that partnerships are managed according to their criticality.

- Register set up but not yet used.
- Review of all partnerships not yet implemented.

Project Management

- Work on-going to embed approach, including highlight reporting and risk management
- Full agreement of the corporate project management approach needed.

Asset Management

- Asset management strategy to be adopted feeding into a strategic plan for acquisitions and disposals, service plans and performance management. An improvement plan is being implemented in this area.

NNDR/Growth

- Consideration of how economic growth, local knowledge, revenues, planning information and national forecasts feed budget setting and long term plans to inform key decisions.

Conclusion

The Councils CLT (Corporate Leadership Team) have in place a mechanism to track progress against agreed audit actions and to ensure that these actions are being managed effectively. This includes regularly reviewing outstanding audit actions and agreeing actions have been completed prior to them being formally closed. The Committee are therefore asked to be assured that CLT provide the necessary assurance in this area.