

Meeting:	Audit and governance committee
Meeting date:	Wednesday 29 November 2017
Title of report:	Internal control working group update
Report by:	Section 151 Officer

Classification

Open

Decision type

This is not an executive decision

Wards affected

(All Wards);

Purpose and summary

To update the committee on the progress of the internal control working group.

Recommendation(s)

That:

- (a) The committee comment on the progress to date of the working group and recommend any further actions which may be needed.**

Alternative options

1. There are no alternative options as the report provides a summary of the working group.

Key considerations

2. The working group was created on 29 September 2017 with members (Councillors ACR Chappell, EPJ Harvey and PD Newman, OBE), their terms of reference are:
 - to act as a reference group for the internal control improvement board

- to gain assurance that actions were appropriate and in proportion to the risk, and were being implemented in a timely fashion.
3. The group have met twice on 26 October 2017 and again on 9 November 2017.
 4. The working group have also observed a meeting of the internal control improvement board which took place on 9 November 2017.
 5. The working group's current understanding is -
 - The internal control improvement board is providing monthly updates the council's management team meeting.
 - Good progress is being made on delivering the specific recommendations made by SWAP as part of its investigation into the refurbishment of Blue School House. The internal control improvement board will provide a full report to the January committee meeting which will include a mapping of how all those recommendations are being delivered.
 - The internal control improvement board are also considering a range of additional recommendations relating to a number of changes to the internal control environment within the council. An update will be provided to the January committee meeting.
 - The internal control improvement board has commissioned a review of reporting of capital projects to make recommendations to improve the transparency of capital reporting, and systemising the processes to record capital income, expenditure and the forecasting thereof. An update will be provided to the January committee meeting.
 - The HR investigation is still ongoing.

Community impact

6. The recommendation support achievement of the council's corporate plan priority to secure better services, quality of life and value for money by ensuring there is robust and proactive management of council resources

Equality duty

7. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to -

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

8. The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate

that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services. As this is a decision for noting we do not believe that it will have an impact on our equality duty

Resource implications

9. There are no resource implications directly arising from this report as it is for information purposes only.

Legal implications

10. There are no legal implication directly arising from this report as it is for information purposes only.

Risk management

11. There are no risks directly arising from this report which is for information purposes only

Consultees

12. None.

Appendices

None

Background papers

None