

AUDIT COMMITTEE

29 JULY 2021

REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (FINANCE & IT)

A.2 AUDIT COMMITTEE – TABLE OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES

(Report prepared by Richard Barrett and Karen Townshend)

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To present to the Committee the progress on outstanding actions identified by the Committee along with general updates on other issues that fall within the responsibilities of the Committee.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- A Table of Outstanding Issues is maintained and reported to each meeting of the Committee. This approach enables the Committee to effectively monitor progress on issues and items that form part of its governance responsibilities.
- Updates are set out against general items, external audit recommendations and the Annual Governance statement within **Appendix A, B, and C** respectively.
- To date there are no significant issues arising from the above, with work remaining in progress or updates provided elsewhere on the agenda where appropriate.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee notes and considers the progress against the actions set out in Appendices A to C.

PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

DELIVERING PRIORITIES

The existence of sound governance, internal control and financial management practices and procedures are essential to the delivery of Corporate priorities supported by effective management and forward planning within this overall framework.

FINANCE, OTHER RESOURCES AND RISK

Finance and other resources

There are no significant financial implications associated with monitoring of the agreed actions or responses. If additional resources are required then appropriate steps will be taken including any necessary reporting requirements.

Risk

The Table of Outstanding Issues is in itself a response to potential risk exposure with further activity highlighted to address matters raised by the Audit Committee.

LEGAL

There are no direct legal implications associated with this report.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Consideration has been given to the implications of the proposed decision in respect of the following and any significant issues are set out below.

Crime and Disorder / Equality and Diversity / Health Inequalities / Area or Ward affected / Consultation/Public Engagement.

This report does not have a direct impact although such issues could feature in future recommendations and actions. Any actions that may have an impact will be considered and appropriate steps taken to address any issues that may arise.

PART 3 – SUPPORTING INFORMATION

TABLE OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES

The Table of Outstanding Issues has been reviewed and updated since it was last considered by the Committee in April 2021.

There are currently 3 main elements to this report as follows:

- 1) **Appendix A** – Provides updates against general items raised by the Committee.
- 2) **Appendix B**- Provides updates against recommendations made by the Council's External Auditor.
- 3) **Appendix C** – Provides updates against the 2020/21 Annual Governance Statement Action Plan.

In terms of items 1) and 2) above, there are no significant issues to raise, with actions remaining in progress. In respect of item 3), as reported to the Committee in April, there has been a significant impact from COVID 19 in terms of progressing the actions as quickly as originally anticipated. However, activity remains in progress against all actions and work will continue over the coming months as part of the 2021/22 action plan, which will form part of the Statement of Accounts that will be presented to the Committee later in the year for approval.

Other issues

Redmond Review

At its meeting in February 2021, the Committee considered the Government's initial responses to the Redmond review into the effectiveness of external audit. These were again considered at the meeting in April 2021.

As mentioned in April, many of the Government's responses indicated that they will either be liaising with the relevant stakeholders or will be considering some recommendations further, with their full response expected in the spring. However, to date any update or recommendations are yet to be announced.

Once an announcement been received, this will be appropriately actioned and reported to the Committee as soon as practicable.

BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR THE DECISION

None

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Table of Outstanding Issues (July 2021) – General.

Appendix B – Table of Outstanding Issues (July 2021) – External Audit Recommendations.

Appendix C - Table of Outstanding Issues – (July 2021) - Update against 2020/21 Annual Governance Statement Actions