

AUDIT COMMITTEE

25 JANUARY 2018

REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR (CORPORATE SERVICES)

A.4 AUDIT COMMITTEE – TABLE OF OUTSTANDING ISSUES

(Report prepared by Richard Barrett)

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To present to the Committee the progress on outstanding actions identified by the Committee.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Table of Outstanding Issues has been reviewed and updated since it was last considered by the Committee at its 21 September 2017 meeting.
- To date there are no significant issues to bring to the attention of the Committee, with updates provided on individual items set out in **Appendix A** or elsewhere on the agenda where appropriate.
- Updates on actions identified within the latest Annual Governance Statement are set out in **Appendix B** with no significant issues to highlight at the present time.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the progress on the outstanding issues be noted.

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

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.

An updated Table of Outstanding Issues is set out in **Appendix A**. An update on actions relating to the latest Annual Governance Statement is set out separately in **Appendix B**.

Update On Issues Raised

Any actions identified by the Committee at its last meeting have now been included where appropriate.

Updates on items either appear as separate items elsewhere on the agenda or set out within the Appendices, with work scheduled or remaining in progress on all items.

In respect of reporting the latest position in terms of the legionella issue experienced at the Frinton and Walton Lifestyles facility, the Council has now finalised a Legionella Policy alongside undertaking a range of actions / activities in response to this issue. However the Health and Safety Executive's final report and recommendations is still awaited. As previously stated, once the Health and Safety Executives report is received, any further actions required will be reviewed and a further update provided to the Audit Committee.

As reported to the Committee in June, Internal Audit will undertake an independent audit of health and safety later this year and this will examine the robustness of the revised arrangements that have been introduced corporately for the management of the Council's health and safety risks and responsibilities, along with the arrangements for support to services when undertaking improvement actions. This audit will also include a review of the improvement actions taken regarding the specific issues that had been identified including those arising from the final recommendations from the Health and Safety Executive.

The Counter Fraud Strategy was rescheduled for presenting to this meeting of the Committee. Although work has progressed, the Department for Works and Pensions (DWP) has recently approached the Council to ask if it would be willing to work together and undertake joint fraud investigations where opportunities arise. Discussions remain on-going with the DWP and as this will have an impact on the Counter Fraud Strategy it has been agreed to defer this item until March 2018 to enable the associated arrangements to be finalised and reflected in the Strategy.

BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR THE DECISION

None

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Table of Outstanding Issues (January 2018) – General.

Appendix B - Table of Outstanding Issues (January 2018) - Annual Governance Statement Actions
