



Audit Committee

3 November 2017

Internal Audit Scrutiny Group

Purpose of Report: Progress report

The Internal Audit Scrutiny Group met on 15 September 2017.

Voluntary Severance	A report had highlighted a lack of process in agreeing some voluntary severances. Since that time, new procedures had been put in place including a guidance note for Heads of Service. A combined document incorporating the voluntary severance policy and management of change policy has been produced. The Group were satisfied that more robust governance had been achieved and noted that a further audit would take place in due course.
Direct Payments	Audits of direct payments had not been taking place. The service had been working to improve the situation but had been hampered by competing priorities. At the same time the popularity of direct payments had increased but the resourcing to manage the process had not. Audits were now completed by the Income and Awards Section and significant movement has been made in addressing the backlog. The service would be subject to a further audit during the next financial year.
Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)	An Internal Audit had been undertaken in February 2017. Some savings were not supported by adequate business plans. The MTFS will need to be revised in light of the new Council's priorities. The Group were concerned that future planning was difficult when the present situation was unclear. An action plan arising from the audit would continue to be monitored.

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Background papers: Notes of meeting held on 15 September 2017

Group Membership: County Councillors J G Morris (Lead Member), M Barnes, K Laurie Parry, A Williams and Mr J Brautigam