

Audit Committee

15 April 2016

Internal Audit Working Group

Purpose of Report: Progress report

The Group has met once since it last reported to Audit Committee:

S106 Agreements	<p>The audit report represented the situation in May 2015, and, whilst this caused the Group some concerns, they were reassured by the positive approach taken to resolve the issues raised. The Group asked that this approach be commended and drawn to the attention of both the Audit Committee and Senior Management.</p> <p>More effective communications across service areas together with a systematic approach to recording has proved beneficial. A Planning Monitoring Officer is in post and has been pivotal in improving procedures. Funds have already been secured to assist projects. An article is to be prepared for inclusion in the Members' Bulletin to ensure all Members are kept informed. The Group also debated liaison with the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority to ensure consistency across the County.</p>
Gas Safety/Serviceing	<p>An audit had been requested by the service following a period of staff absence. Whilst all properties inspected had the appropriate certification in place, there was a query as to whether the Authority would be aware if an inspection had not taken place. A new contractor is in place with revised and improved systems. A new housing management system has been implemented which works well for this particular aspect of the service.</p> <p>Members have expressed concern over a period of time regarding the implementation of the new housing management system (QL) and its ability to deal with all that is required of it. Some additional support is to be provided on a short term basis to undertake updates and development work. Many of the issues relate to a former system which is still in operation but does not have the necessary interfaces. This issue was elevated to Audit Committee in January 2014 for consideration.</p>
Direct Payments	The Group remain concerned regarding the lack of a

	policy to recoup overpayments. The service was reviewed in 2010 and again recently when many of the actions remained outstanding. A follow up review is nearing completion and will be reported to the Group in due course.
Procurement of Portable IT Equipment	<p>An issue has been identified whereby some schools are sourcing IT support and equipment outside of the corporate contract. This potentially causes difficulties in compatibility, safeguarding, breaching EU procurement rules and VAT issues.</p> <p>The Service Level Agreement should have been reviewed during 2015/16 and the Group have asked that this be progressed as a matter of urgency. Schools were to receive a letter reminding them of the specification of the SLA after the Easter Holidays and the Group asked that this letter be strengthened to highlight the issues and associated risks.</p>
Fraud Update	The Group noted that there were currently no cases of internal fraud.

Follow ups on savings identified by Northgate, Appointeeship and Deputyship, and Direct Payments would be considered at the next meeting in May. The Group also asked that the governance of projects be included in the Internal Audit Work Programme.

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Sources: Notes of meeting – 29 March 2016

Group Membership: County Councillors J G Morris (Lead Member), E R Davies, S C Davies, F Jump, , D A Thomas and Mr J Brautigam