

Audit Committee

7 July 2016

Internal Audit Working Group

Purpose of Report: Progress report

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

Direct Payments	<p>A follow up report has been produced as there have been issues surrounding direct payments for a number of years. The Group remain concerned with the lack of resources being used to tackle any deficits but were pleased to support a case for additional, temporary staffing to address the backlog.</p> <p>A policy is now in place and six actions from the previous audit have been put in place, with the remaining four being partially complete.</p> <p>Management responsibility for the Direct Payments service should be given further consideration to ensure it is located within the most appropriate area.</p>
Software Licensing	<p>The Group had initially been concerned that no action plan had been prepared following the Internal Audit. They were reassured that appropriate processes had been introduced to ensure that audit reports were dealt with in future.</p> <p>Technical resources for monitoring licensing are not being fully utilized. Work is being undertaken during Q1 to analyse the Authority's requirements to enable a decision to be taken as to how licensing arrangements can best be handled. Systems are also to be rationalised which will have a positive impact on the management of licenses.</p> <p>There is a risk to the Authority if the correct licenses are not maintained – this is included on the service risk register and consideration may have to be given to elevating this to the Corporate Risk Register.</p>
IT Business Continuity	<p>Inadequate business continuity plans were in place. Technologies and demands were constantly changing and although business continuity was improving, the pace of change was of some concern. Technology is seen as</p>

	<p>an enabler for other services, but resources are needed to meet this requirement.</p> <p>Action Plans for software licensing and business continuity are to be forwarded to the Group as soon as they are available.</p>
Fraud Update	The Group noted that there were currently no cases of internal fraud.

Report contact: Lisa Richards, Legal, Scrutiny and Democratic Services

Contact details: lisa.richards@powys.gov.uk, 01597 826371

Sources: Notes of meeting – 17 May 2016 2016

Group Membership: County Councillors J G Morris (Lead Member), E R Davies, W D Powell, D G Thomas, S L Williams and Mr J Brautigam