

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 25th September, 2012 7.00 pm Town Hall, Watford

Publication date: 17 September 2012

CONTACT

If you require further information or you would like a copy of this agenda in another format, e.g. large print, please contact Sandra Hancock in Legal and Property Services on 01923 278377 or by email to legalanddemocratic@watford.gov.uk.

Welcome to this meeting. We hope you find these notes useful.

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COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Councillor I Brown (Chair)
Councillor A Burtenshaw (Vice-Chair)
Councillors I Brandon, A Khan and P Taylor

AGENDA

PART A - OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP
- 2. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS (IF ANY)
- 3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2012 to be submitted and signed.

4. OMBUDSMAN'S ANNUAL REVIEW (Pages 1 - 10)

This reports sets out the Ombudsman's Annual Review of its dealings with the Council for the financial year 2011/12.

5. EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT

Report to follow

6. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Report to follow

7. TREASURY MANAGEMENT UPDATE (Pages 11 - 16)

This report provides the regular review of the Council's Treasury Management Strategy and investment performance.

8. IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNAL AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS (Pages 17 - 50)

This is the regular report on progress with the implementation of Internal Audit recommendations, providing an update since the last meeting.

9. INTERNAL AUDIT PROGRESS REPORT (Pages 51 - 58)

This report and appendices provide updated information on the work undertaken by Internal Audit.

Agenda Item 4

PART A

Report to: Audit Committee

Date of meeting: 25th September 2012

Report of: Head of Legal and Property Services

Title: Ombudsman's Annual Review

1.0 **SUMMARY**

1.1 Attached as Appendix A is a copy of the Ombudsman's Annual Review of its dealings with the Council for the financial year 2011/12.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 That the Annual Review be noted.

Contact Officer:

For further information on this report please contact: Carol Chen telephone extension: 8350 email: Carol.chen@watford.gov.uk

Report approved by: Managing Director

3.0 **DETAILED PROPOSAL**

- 3.1 Attached at Appendix A is the Ombudsman's Annual Letter now called Annual Review detailing the complaints it received against the Council from members of the public in the financial year 2011/12
- In 2011/12 the Ombudsman received 18 enquiries and complaints about the Council down from 22 enquiries and complaints in 2010/11, of which 11 were forwarded for further investigation.

 The subject area generating the largest number of complaints and enquiries was planning and development (6), with benefits and tax (3) and environmental services (3) being the next highest.
- In addition the Ombudsman decided 11 complaints against the Council in the same period. The figures do not match with those in 3.2 above as some decisions may have related to complaints actually received in the previous accounting year but not finalised, and some cases still being outstanding at the end of this accounting period.

- 3.4 No complaint resulted in a finding of maladministration. Of those investigated in 2 instances the Council accepted at the outset it had made a mistake and had apologised to the complainant before the Ombudsman concluded her investigation. In the remaining 5 cases where the complaint was investigated the Ombudsman concluded either there was not enough evidence of fault (3) or no injustice (2)
- 3.5 The Council's average response time for responding to enquiries was 17.5 days an improvement on the 20 days in 2009/10 and well within the Ombudsman's target of 28 days
- 3.6 The Ombudsman intends to publish all decisions on line during the course of this financial year.

4.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Financial

- 4.1.1 The Head of Strategic Finance comments that There are no financial implications in this report. Any payments of compensation agreed with the Ombudsman come out of the budgets of the requisite service area.
- 4.2 **Legal Issues** (Monitoring Officer)
- 4.2.1 The Head of Legal and Property Services comments that there are no legal issues in this report.
- 4.3 Equalities
- 4.3.1 None
- 4.4 Potential Risks
- 4.4.1 None
- 4.5 **Staffing**
- 4.5.1 None
- 4.6 **Accommodation**
- 4.6.1 None
- 4.7 **Community Safety**
- 4.7.1 None

4.8 **Sustainability**

4.8.1 None

Appendices

Ombudsman's Annual Review

Background Papers

"No papers were used in the preparation of this report".

File Reference

None

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22 June 2012

By email

Mr Manny Lewis
Managing Director
Watford Council
Town Hall
WATFORD WD17 3EX

Dear Mr Lewis

Annual Review Letter

I am writing with our annual summary of statistics on the complaints made to me about your authority for the year ended 31 March 2012. I hope the information set out in the enclosed tables will be useful to you.

The statistics include the number of enquiries and complaints received by our Advice Team, the number forwarded by the Advice Team to my office, and decisions made on complaints about your authority. The decision descriptions have been changed to more closely follow the wording in our legislation and to give greater precision. Our guidance on statistics provides further explanation (see our website).

The statistics also show the time taken by your authority to respond to written enquiries.

I am pleased to say that I have no concerns about your authority's response times and there are no issues arising from the complaints that I want to bring to your attention.

Changes to our role

I am also pleased to have this opportunity to update you on changes to our role. Since April 2010 we have been exercising jurisdiction over the internal management of schools on a pilot basis in 14 local authority areas. This was repealed in the Education Act 2011 and the power restored to the Secretary of State for Education. During the short period of the pilot we believe we have had a positive impact on the way in which schools handle complaints. This was endorsed by independent research commissioned by the Department for Education which is available on their website.

Our jurisdiction will end in July 2012 and all complaints about internal school matters will be completed by 31 January 2013.

From April 2013, as a result of the Localism Act 2011, local authority tenants will take complaints about their landlord to the Independent Housing Ombudsman (IHO). We are working with the IHO to ensure a smooth transition that will include information for local authority officers and members.

Supporting good local public administration

We launched a new series of Focus reports during 2011/12 to develop our role in supporting good local public administration and service improvement. They draw on the learning arising from our casework in specific service areas. Subjects have included school admissions, children out of school, homelessness and use of bankruptcy powers. The reports describe good practice and highlight what can go wrong and the injustice caused. They also make recommendations on priority areas for improvement.

We were pleased that a survey of local government revenue officers provided positive feedback on the bankruptcy focus report. Some 85% said they found it useful.

In July 2011, we also published a report with the Centre for Public Scrutiny about how complaints can feed into local authority scrutiny and business planning arrangements.

We support local complaint resolution as the most speedy route to remedy. Our training programme on effective complaint handling is an important part of our work in this area. In 2011/12 we delivered 76 courses to councils, reaching 1,230 individual learners.

We have developed our course evaluation to measure the impact of our training more effectively. It has shown that 87% of learners gained new skills and knowledge to help them improve complaint-handling practice, 83% made changes to complaint-handling practice after training, and 73% said the improvements they made resulted in greater efficiency.

Further details of publications and training opportunities are on our website.

Publishing decisions

Following consultation with councils, we are planning to launch an open publication scheme during the next year where we will be publishing on our website the final decision statements on all complaints. Making more information publicly available will increase our openness and transparency, and enhance our accountability.

Our aim is to provide a comprehensive picture of complaint decisions and reasons for councils and the public. This will help inform citizens about local services and create a new source of information on maladministration, service failure and injustice.

We will publish a copy of this annual review with those of all other English local authorities on our website on 12 July 2012. This will be the same day as publication of our Annual Report 2011/12 where you will find further information about our work.

We always welcome feedback from councils and would be pleased to receive your views. If it would be helpful, I should be pleased to arrange a meeting for myself or a senior manager to discuss our work in more detail.

Yours sincerely

Anne Seex

Local Government Ombudsman

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Local authority report - Watford BC LGO advice team

Enquiries and complaints received	Adult Care Services	Benefits & Tax	Corporate & Other Services	Education & Childrens Services	Environmental Services & Public Protection & Regulation	Housing	Planning & Development	Total
Advice given	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Premature complaints	0	2	1	0	2	0	1	6
Forwarded to Investigative team (resubmitted)	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
Porwarded to nvestigative team (new)	1	1	1	0	1	2	2	8
Total	1	3	2	1	3	2	6	18

Investigative team - Decisions

Not investigated				Investigated		Report	Total
No power to investigate	No reason to use exceptional power to investigate	Investigation not justified & Other	Not enough No or minor Injustice remedied evidence of fault injustice & Other during enquiries				
0	2	2	3	2	2	0	11

	No of first enquiries	Avg no of days to respond
Response times to first enquiries	4	17.5

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Agenda Item 7

PART A

Report to: Audit Committee

Date of meeting: 25th September 2012

Report of: Head of Strategic Finance

Title: Treasury Management Update Report

1.0 **SUMMARY**

1.1 This report provides the regular review of the Council's Treasury Management Strategy and investment performance.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 That the Committee notes the report.

Contact Officer:

For further information on this report please contact: Bernard Clarke, Head of Strategic Finance, telephone extension: 8189 email: bernard.clarke@watford.gov.uk

3.0 Background

- 3.1 The uncertainties within the Eurozone continue to dominate the Council's investment strategy. At the time of preparing this report, the ECB has announced an 'unlimited' bond buying programme that would provide a 'fully effective' backstop to the stricken eurozone economies (called the 'Outright Money Transactions' initiative).
- The most significant aspect of this announcement was that the ECB would renounce its seniority and be on a par with other creditors. This is a change of direction whereby in Greece for example, the ECB has written off none of its loans but has effectively imposed an 70% write down of all other private debt. The fear that the ECB would retain 'seniority' has led to a run on Spanish banks in particular with a massive 74 billion of euros being withdrawn in July alone and repatriated elsewhere. The ECB announcement will hopefully stop this flight of capital.
- 3.3 The ECB announcement has not been greeted with any enthusiasm in Germany/ Finland and the Netherlands. The Head of the German Bundesbank threatened to resign and it is highly likely that Germany will impose very severe terms upon any rescue of Spain and Italy.
- This raises the one big stumbling block still to be negotiated namely that the ECB will support Spain and Italy only if they agree to ask for help and also agree to have their finances monitored. The ECB has also announced that any support would stop immediately if any country missed its targets on reducing budget deficits. Spain and Italy have considered this level of control to be unacceptable and an all too frequent game of brinkmanship is being played out.
- Within the UK there are problems of LIBOR rate fixing and in addition Lloyd's and the Co-operative bank have had to make large compensation provisions for payment protection insurance. China has its own problems with a significant slow down in growth and a hard landing for its economy being predicted. Finally the United States has an election in the near future and will be imposing tax increases and spending cuts in the New Year.
- In the immediate future it looks highly probable that Greece will be forced out of the eurozone (as a token sop for German public consumption).

4.0 The Council's Current Investment Strategy

4.1 The Council's strategy gives priority to the security of its assets before seeking a high interest rate return The uncertainties within Europe could affect UK financial institutions and this has caused the Council's portfolio to have a generally short maturity profile in order to be able to react to 'events'. Further, the lack of growth within the UK economy and the high levels of personal and private company debt has resulted in there being no expectation of an early increase in interest rates.

4.2 The effect can best be illustrated in quotations received on 29th August for the deposit of Council funds:

Rate of Interest	1 month	3 months	6 months	12 months
Yorkshire Building Society	N/A	0.40%	0.65%	1.10%
Leeds Building Society	N/A	0.52%	0.90%	1.36%
Barclay's Bank	0.35%	0.50%	0.77%	1.25%

4.3 The two building societies are not interested in 1 month money and the rates generally are pretty pathetic. The average rate of return anticipated for 2012/2013 was 1.3% so current rates (unless placed for 12 months) are well below this target.

4.4 Money Market Funds (MMF)

- 4.4.1 At the June meeting of the Audit Committee discussion was held regarding the use of MMFs, at which time I was unconvinced of the potential risk/ reward relationship. Since that time, the number of reliable counterparties for the Council's funds has continued to reduce. The opportunity was taken at the CIPFA national conference in July (where there is a large exhibition centre) to discuss MMFs with all the leading suppliers. Discussion was also held with a number of local authorities that invest in Money Market Funds.
- 4.4.2 As a consequence, £3m of the Council's portfolio has been invested with Deutsche Asset Management (DAM) whose credentials are as follows:
 - * The Money Market Fund is triple AAA rated by Moody's and Standard and Poors—the two leading credit rating agencies.
 - * DAM has over 180 public sector mandates
 - * DAM has £6.3billion under management all within the same fund
 - * DAM has 9 dedicated money market analysts constantly monitoring credit risk
 - * The Council's portfolio can be called back at a day's notice
- 4.4.3 Deutsche Asset Management was awarded 'Best Money Market Fund-Europe' at the Treasury Management International ceremony in 2011.
 It also was deemed to be 'Best Provider of Money Market Funds-Western Europe at the Global Finance ceremony in both 2011 and 2012.
- 4.4.4 Its current portfolio includes 107 counterparties and are mainly international banks who would never consider dealing with individual local authorities. The portfolio includes amongst others the bank of China; bank of Tokyo/ Mitsubishi; and a number of North European banks. It has no exposure to Spain; Italy; Portugal; Ireland; or Greece. Due to the wide scope of the counterparties used, the overall fund is considered triple AAA rated. It meets the Council's main priority for security of the investment. It is also highly 'liquid' and can be called back at a day's notice. In these circumstances the 'yield' is not great (0.49%) but, as shown at paragraph 4.2, is comparable with most alternatives. The Government backed Debt Management Office offers a 0.25% rate of interest and will take, on average, 1 month to repay funds.

5.0 The Council's Investment Portfolio

5.1 The Council's current investment portfolio is attached at **Appendix 1** and is as at 14th September. It is currently over loaded with deposits with Nat West and this is

because a £3m investment with Santander UK Itd matured on 7th September. Although it has previously been reported that it is a separate entity from its Spanish parent, however, in the light of the fluctuating situation with Spain (and as reported in Section 3 of this report) it has been felt prudent to await developments. Should the Spanish Government formally request support from the ECB then the pressure on financial institutions in Spain should ease considerably. If this were to occur, then £3m of the Council's Portfolio would probably be placed again with Santander UK Itd. Should however the Spanish Government prevaricate then it is probable that there will be a further run on their banking sector and this £3m investment will need to be placed elsewhere. The problem relates to the fact that the number of counterparties available to the Council is extremely small.

5.2 Currently, the portfolio comprises leading banks in the UK (where a £3m maximum ceiling is in place), and £2m with each of the top 5 Building Societies. As explained earlier the maturity profile is being kept short for the present time.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial Issues

The Head of Strategic Finance comments that the revenue estimates for 2012/2013 has assumed £325k of investment interest will be achieved (based upon a 1.3% rate of return). It is anticipated that this will still be achieved due to an increased rate of return from the early part of the financial year and the fact that the investment portfolio is larger than originally anticipated.

6.2 **Legal Issues** (Monitoring Officer)

The Head of Legal and Property Services comments that there are statutory limitations governing cash fund investments and all proposals within this report ensure continued compliance.

6.3 Potential Risks

Potential Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Overall score
Investment with non approved body	1	3	3
Investment with an approved counterparty that subsequently defaults	1	4	4
Failure to achieve investment interest			
budget targets	2	2	4

Those risks scoring 9 or above are considered significant and will need specific attention in project management. They will also be added to the service's Risk Register.

6.4 Staffing & Equalities

None Directly

6.5 **Accommodation**

None Directly

AS AT

14th

September

Loan Ref	Lender	Loan Type	Broker	Profile	Fix/Var	Notice	Start Date	Maturity	Principal	Rate	APPEND
1005	CLYDESDA	D		V	V		06-Apr-10		-3,000,000.00	0.85	IX 1
1010	NATWESTS	D		V	V		27-Apr-10		-7,000,000.00	0.90	
1025	CO-OP	D		V	V	С	01-Jul-10		-550,000.00	0.56	
1054	NATIONWI	D	STER	M	F		23-Feb-12	21-Feb-13	-2,000,000.00	1.85	
1056	BARCLAYS	D	PREB	M	F		06-Mar-12	05-Mar-13	-2,000,000.00	1.82	
1059	LLOYDSTS	D		M	F		13-Apr-12	11-Apr-13	-2,000,000.00	3.00	
1062	DEUTSCHE	D		V	V	С	25-Jul-12		-3,000,000.00	0.49	
1063	SKIPTON	D	STER	M	F		15-Aug-12	15-Feb-13	-2,000,000.00	0.92	
1064	LEEDS BS	D	PREB	M	F		16-Aug-12	16-Nov-12	-1,000,000.00	0.52	
1065	LLOYDSTS	D		M	F		20-Aug-12	20-Nov-12	-1,000,000.00	1.35	
1066	YORKSHIR	D	PREB	M	F		03-Sep-12	03-Dec-12	-1,000,000.00	0.40	
1067	BARCLAYS	D	TRAD	M	F		03-Sep-12	03-Dec-12	-1,000,000.00	0.50	
1068	LEEDS BS	D		M	F		05-Sep-12	02-Jan-13	-1,000,000.00	0.63	
1069	COVENTRY	D	TRAD	M	F		10-Sep-12	11-Mar-13	-2,000,000.00	0.82	
1070	YORKSHIR	D	TRAD	M	F		12-Sep-12	12-Dec-12	-1,000,000.00	0.40	
									-29,550,000.00		

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Agenda Item 8

PART A

Report to: Audit Committee

Date of meeting: 25th September 2012

Report of: Audit Manager

Title: Implementation of Internal Audit Recommendations

1.0 **SUMMARY**

This is the Audit Manager's regular report on progress with the implementation of Internal Audit recommendations. It provides an update on those recommendations reported to Audit Committee as outstanding in June 2012.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 The contents of the report be noted.

Contact Officer:

For further information on this report please contact: Mark Allen – Audit Manager telephone extension 8104 (Watford) or (01923) 727463 (Three Rivers) email: mark.allen@watford.gov.uk

Report approved by: Bernard Clarke – Head of Strategic Finance.

3.0 **DETAILS**

- 3.1 Responses to the follow up requests were received promptly and are showing good progress towards full implementation.
- The table below summarises progress in implementation of the recommendations for 2010/11, 2011/12 and 2012/13 to date.

Year	Total	Implemented	Not yet	Request for	Outstanding	% age
	Recommendations.		due	extended		Implemented
	made			time		
2010/11	213	201	0	12	0	94%
2011/12	82	68	9	5	0	83%
2012/13	1	0	1	0	0	0%

- 3.3 The 12 requests for extended time for 2010/2011 audits are broken down as follows (the page numbers in brackets relate to the corresponding page of Appendix 1 which details all current recommendations):
 - IT Service Desk/Change Management = 2 on hold (page 1)
 - Health & Safety = 1 (page 5)
 - Asset Management = 1 (page 8)
 - IT Remote Working = 8 (page 9)
- 3.4 The 5 requests for extended time for 2011/2012 audits are broken down as follows:
 - Money Laundering = 3 (page 16)
 - Vehicle Maintenance = 1 (page 21)
 - Gifts & Hospitality = 1 (page 21)

3.5 Internal Audit Reports for 2011/2012

Final reports have been issued for all planned audits except for the IT Backup & Disaster Recovery, Benefits Administration systems, Council Tax, NNDR, Income Collection, Reconciliations, Budget Monitoring, Financial Procedure Rules and Treasury Management audits which are at draft report stage. The recommendations from these draft reports, and from some of the more recently issued final reports, are not included in the table at 3.2 above but will be included in future updates.

3.6 Internal Audit Reports for 2012/2013

Final reports have been issued for the Closure of 2011/12 Accounts, Emergency Planning (Olympics Readiness) and West Herts Crematorium audits.

The eFinancials Upgrade, Benefits Subsidy Claims, Asset Management, Procurement, Data Protection, Data Transparency, Partnerships, Risk Management and Carbon Management audits are currently work in progress.

3.7 Appendix 1 provides the detail of the current status of recommendations reflecting responses to the follow up exercise conducted in August 2012.

4.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Financial
- 4.1.1 The Head of Strategic Finance comments that there are no financial implications in this report.
- 4.2 **Legal Issues** (Monitoring Officer)
- 4.2.1 The Head of Legal and Property Services comments that there are no legal issues in the report. The Council has a responsibility to ensure that it maintains an adequate and effective system of internal audit of its accounting records and of its system of internal control in accordance with proper practices in relation to internal control.

4.3 Potential Risks

Potential Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Overall score
Progress in implementing Internal Audit recommendations is not monitored, recommendations are not implemented and as a consequence, internal controls are weakened.	1	3	3

Background Papers

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report. If you wish to inspect or take copies of the background papers, please contact the officer named on the front page of the report.

Internal Audit Files

File Reference

None.

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Audit Plan 2010/2011

IT Service Desk and Change Management Audit

Final report issued March 2011

Ref No.	Recommendation	Priority	Action to Date	Responsibility	Deadline	Resolved × or √	Revised Deadline
01	The Service Catalogue should be updated and finalised to ensure it contains a listing of all the current services being provided by ICT. Once finalised, the Service Desk contact details and fault reporting procedures should be made available to all Watford and Three Rivers staff on the intranet.	Important	Position (August 2011) This work has been placed on hold and priority has been given to other work streams and projects. ICT is currently conducting an options appraisal of alternative models of service delivery, which may mean that staff interact with the service desk differently from 1 Oct 2012. Position (February 2012) As at August 2011 above. Position (June 2012) Update regarding IT Tender is that any potential transition to an outsourced provider would be early 2013. Position (August 2012) No change from June update	Head of ICT	June 2011	×	On Hold
03	Management should review the priority settings and the associated response times within the LanDesk system to ensure that they correspond to the defined agreed SLA. Management should ensure that procedures and processes are documented to escalate calls to Service Desk management when the incident is approaching the SLA to help identify if remedial action is required.	Important	To be investigated and rectified. Position (May 2011): This has been investigated. Remedial work to correct this will form an outcome once the existing Touchpaper system is upgraded in early June 2011. Position (August 2011) The LANDesk system was upgraded in July 2011 but further work has been placed on hold and priority has been given to other work streams and projects. ICT is currently conducting an options appraisal of alternative models of service delivery, which may mean that staff interact	Head of ICT	June 2011	×	On Hold

IT Service Desk and Change Management Audit

Final report issued March 2011

Ref No.	Recommendation	Priority	Action to Date	Responsibility	Deadline	Resolved × or ✓	Revised Deadline
			with the service desk differently from 1 Oct 2012.				
			Position (February 2012) As at August 2011 above.				
			Position (June 2012) Update regarding IT Tender is that any potential transition to an outsourced provider would be early 2013.				
			Position (August 2012) No change from June update				

BACS Procedures

Final report issued March 2011

Ref No.	Recommendation	Priority	Action to Date	Responsibility	Deadline	Resolved × or √	Revised Deadline
4.29	Consideration should be given to transferring the responsibility for transmitting BACS payment and DD request files to the Services responsible for the corresponding expenditure and income transactions following the principles set out in the "Draft BACS Procedure – Payments" and "Draft BACS Procedure – Direct Debit" documents. Such a transfer would have to be supported by an indepth handover process by ICT.	HIGH	Responsibility is being transferred to Services. Finance have the necessary hardware but staff require training. Revs and Bens will follow. Position (August 2011): This has been delayed due to technical problems. Revs & Bens rollout has been planned to occur by the end of December 2011 Position (October 2011) As at August 2011 above.	Head of ICT	June 2011	✓	December 2011

BACS P	BACS Procedures									
Final report issued March 2011										
Ref No.	Recommendation	Priority	Action to Date	Responsibility	Deadline	Resolved x or √	Revised Deadline			
			Position (February 2012) Transfer of BACS to Finance has been completed. Transfer to Revs & Bens is in progress and due to be completed by the time the Audit Committee meets. Position (June 2012) Transfer to revs and bens is in progress. Slight delay due to additional licenses required across WBC and TRDC sites. Due to be completed by the time audit committee meet. Position (August 2012) Transfer to R&B complete with training provided.							

Payroll							
Final report	issued March 2011						
Ref No.	Recommendation	Priority	Action to Date	Responsibility	Deadline	Resolved x or √	Revised Deadline
4.10.5	Arrangements should be made to harmonise the process for making third party payments.	Medium	Position May 2011: Discussions have taken place with Finance, who are not in favour of harmonising third party payments until the Finance system has been upgraded to allow automatic logging of data. Finance are resolving this directly with Northgate Position August 2011: This requires rewriting the interfaces between	Finance Manager (Dot Reynolds)	April 2011	✓	April 2012 July 2012 July/ August 2012

Payroll							
Final repo	rt issued March 2011						
Ref No.	Recommendation	Priority	Action to Date	Responsibility	Deadline	Resolved × or √	Revised Deadline
			Payroll and COA. This is not a major priority as the current arrangements are satisfactory to meet the operational needs.				
			Position October 2011: As at August 2011 above.				
			Position February 2012: We have received a quote from Northgate to update their payroll codes which was approved in January 2012. We anticipate the work will be completed in March 2012. When the coding issue has been resolved successfully, it will be possible to harmonise feeders to the GL, and the third party payment procedures will be harmonised as part of that process. Proposed Revised Deadline July 2012.				
			Position May 2012: Northgate have started work on updating their payroll codes, this is being tested on the May 2012 pay run (expected to go live in June 2012). When the coding issue has been resolved successfully, it will be possible to harmonise feeders to the GL, and the third party payment procedures will be harmonised as part of that process. Proposed Revised Deadline July/August 2012 depending on closing of accounts progress and leave.				
			Position August 2012: Northgate completed work on payroll journal codes in July 2012. Northgate will make third party payments from September 2012. This will harmonise the process for making third party payments.				

Health 8	Safety Follow Up						
Final repor	t issued November 2010						
Ref No.	Recommendation	Priority	Action to Date	Responsibility	Deadline	Resolved × or √	Revised Deadline
5.1.31	The guidance provided for the "Potential Risks" element of the 'Implications' section of the standard report format for all reports to Cabinet and Council should be updated to include specific reference to the need to consider health and safety risks. This will demonstrate that health and safety considerations will have been taken into account as appropriate for all strategic and policy decisions.	HIGH	Update Aug 2011 Discussions have taken place, however, report format has not been updated. Recommendation is still under review. Update December 2011 Recommendation is still under review. Update January 2012. To be reviewed and resolved by 31 March 2012 Update May 2012 Item to be discussed at next LT on 15 May. Do not believe report format is due to be updated. Update August 2012 Due to the age of this recommendation and the fact that H&S is now under better control than previously, I no longer consider this to be required. H&S is raised regularly at LT meetings and Management Board in Three Rivers. No major concerns have been raised regarding Health and Safety.	Shared Services Head of Human Resources	December 2010.		31 March 2012 15 May 2012
5.4.26	Effective systems for storing and accessing evidence of the performance of statutory health and safety related inspections and assessments of operational buildings; plant and equipment should be agreed and implemented as a matter of urgency.	HIGH	November 2010. Responsibility of Legal & Property Services. H&S Advisor to comment on via risk based audits Update December 2011 Site logs currently being rolled out by Buildings and Projects. Asset Management Database still progressing following a number of data capture issues. All current legislative	Health & Safety Advisor/ Buildings and Projects Team	November 2010. (via risk based audits)	(Partly resolved)	Position to be reviewed again in March 2012

Health 8	Safety Follow Up						
Final repor	rt issued November 2010						
Ref No.	Recommendation	Priority	Action to Date	Responsibility	Deadline	Resolved × or ✓	Revised Deadline
			compliance requirements are managed in site logs or relevant contract file . Where possible electronic files have been created for viewing or web links created for on line access. New asset database is now not likely to be ready in the very near future. Update Jan 2012. New asset management database modules for Asset Assessment will be commenced by end of financial year. Design of this module will enable the recording of essential data to ensure compliance under a central depository. Additional features are already being tested to deliver plant & equipment monitoring facilities with improved drawings and visual aides/unique referencing methods . Position May 2012 Risk Management Policies for control of Asbestos, Control of Legionella, Control of Fire are all now complete and adopted by the Authority. Site logs are all completed and will be distributed during a training session to building managers (during Q1 2012/13 subject to availability of managers). All hard copy files have now been scanned and are ready for input into the Atrium Asset Management Database. (human resource dependant possible option to front load as required). On line accessibility now exists for Asbestos and Portable Appliance Testing compliance. All other statutory requirements are held electronically in Buildings and Projects awaiting input into new asset management database. Final Phase of the project that will allow this information to be accessed by all has commenced and a meeting with the service provider has been scheduled for 30				June 2012

Final repor	rt issued November 2010		Final report issued November 2010								
Ref No.	Recommendation	Priority	Action to Date	Responsibility	Deadline	Resolved x or √	Revised Deadline				
			May to scope the final requirements for delivery of this module. A new spreadsheet for capturing roles and responsibilities for WBC & Tenants Operators has been drafted and circulated to majority portfolio stakeholders for comment. Includes all statutory requirements for avoidance of doubt. Implementation to commence Q2 2012/13 once final layout approved. Position (August 2012) Statutory Data is held in Buildings & Projects. Copies of relevant data is included in the building site logs that have been distributed. All outstanding actions from the H&S Audit for Buildings & Projects have been completed and signed off. Roles & Responsibilities Spreadsheet has been handed to the Property Section for population. Asset Management Database is in final Preparation Stage for accessing stored statutory information but has had to be deferred pending delivery of other Key Authority Projects. Continuation of the Asset Management Database will take place in September 2012 which is still inkeeping with previous update.				July – Septemb 2012				

Asset M	anagement						
Final repor	rt issued March 2011						
Ref No.	Recommendation	Priority	Action to Date	Responsibility	Deadline	Resolved × or √	Revised Deadline
5.4.7	There should be detailed procedures in place for administering the fixed asset registers.	High	The procedures will be compiled to take account of the IFRS standard. The IFRS compliant module was installed late in the closing of accounts process. Existing assets have been updated on the system, but no new assets have yet been added New assets acquired during 2010/11 will be added to the register during the 2011/12 financial year. Procedures will be written as the asset register is updated. Position February 2012: This is the first full year with a fully operational integrated fixed asset module. Fixed asset / capital procedure notes will be prepared during the 2012 closing period as the work is undertaken. Proposed Revised Deadline July 2012 Position May 2012: Closing of accounts in progress. Deadline remains July 2012. Position August 2012: General procedures can be documented, but detailed procedures relate to the screens in the Financial Management System (FMS). The FMS is being upgraded, going live with version 4.1 on 20 August. Detailed procedures will be written with reference to the upgraded version.	Finance Manager	June 2011	×	July 2012 October 2012

Ref No.	Recommendation	Priority	Action to Date	Responsibility	Deadline	Resolved × or √	Revised Deadline
01	A remote working policy and procedures should be developed. This should include all areas pertaining to remote working.	Important	To be included within the IT Security Policy and Handbook for both WBC and TRDC. Position June 2012 This has been delayed due to staff workload relating to the IT tender. Position (August 2012) No change from June update	Head of ICT	March 2012	×	December 2012
02	All remote users should be issued with Terms and Conditions of Use for any laptops and mobile phone devices and should be required to confirm that they have read, understood and agree to comply with the stated policies.	Minor	ICT will define the terms and conditions of use for laptops and mobile phone devices. Mobile phones are not within the remit of the ICT Shared Service, this will need to be managed by the relevant officer within each council. Position (February 2012) WBC T&C for mobile phone usage has been completed and sent out to all mobile phone users. T&C for all laptops and TRDC Mobile phones is pending. Position June 2012 This has been delayed due to staff workload relating to the IT tender. Position (August 2012) No change from June update	Head of ICT	March 2012	(Part resolved)	December 2012
03	Management should ensure that the risks associated with home and offsite working have been assessed and addressed within the Corporate and ICT risk registers. This should include in particular the increased risk of breaches in data security and confidentiality when Council information is accessed away from	Important	A risk assessment as described will be carried out and identified risks will be recorded within the service risk register. However, it should be noted that the councils acknowledge that data can also be lost via attachments within emails and paper documents being mishandled, lost or stolen.	Head of ICT	March 2012	*	December 2012

Ref No.	Recommendation	Priority	Action to Date	Responsibility	Deadline	Resolved ≭ or ✓	Revised Deadline
	offices through loss, theft or mishandling. In particular the increased risk of breaches in data security and confidentiality when Council information is accessed using non-Council equipment should be evaluated and any necessary countermeasures developed.		Position June 2012 This has been delayed due to staff workload relating to the IT tender. Position (August 2012) No change from June update				
04	A procedure to review leavers and dormant remote access accounts should be developed to ensure that remote access is promptly removed for users on termination of their employment and that all IT equipment or mobile devices are returned to ICT.	Important	Agreed Position (June 2012) Service desk act on notifications from HR related to leavers. A more formal process is currently being worked on. This has been delayed due to staff workload relating to the IT tender. Position (August 2012) No change from June update	Head of ICT	March 2012	*	December 2012
05	The ICT Shared Service should ensure the two-factor user authentication solution is enabled for remote users to gain remote access to the Council networks.	Important	Agreed Position (June 2012): This has been installed and we are in the process of testing this functionality Position (August 2012) Rollout of this functionality is being planned and intended to be in place within the deadline.	Infrastructure Manager	June 2012	*	December 2012
08	Management should ensure that mobile devices are recorded on the IT Asset Register when new stock is issued and when stock is returned from users.	Important	Agreed. However, mobile phones are not within the remit of ICT Shared Services, they are under the remit of Corporate Services. Hence need to determine responsibility for recording of mobile phone assets within WBC and TRDC.	Head of ICT Corporate Services (Office Services Manager)	March 2012	✓	

Ref No.	Recommendation	Priority	Action to Date	Responsibility	Deadline	Resolved × or √	Revised Deadline
			Progress (August 2012) The register of mobile phones for Watford Borough Council is maintained by the Member Development and Civic Officer (Maternity Cover)				
09	Management should ensure that security settings on mobile device handsets such as iPhones enforce the following settings: Devices should be required to be protected by a power on password or PIN. Any default passwords or PIN codes need to be changed on first use, these should not be removed unless authorised in writing by ICT; Devices should be set to 'Non-discoverable' or 'Hidden' to help prevent information disclosure by short distance data transfer; and Users should be restricted from reconfiguring the security settings on devices. The remote wipe solution should be investigated to ensure all the data stored on the mobile phone can be wiped either remotely or by exceeding the login threshold. Management should ensure that only ICT approved mobile devices should are procured and issued and all confidential and sensitive data held on mobile device	Important	Agreed. Government Code of Connection stipulates that they have only approved Blackberrys for use as mobile devices. There are currently more critical priorities to address within ICT and this is where the focus will lie. The implementation of a Blackberry Enterprise Server will address the above recommendation and will be identified as a future project for the ICT Service. Position (August 2012) Due to the large resource and investment required with this, it will be assigned a priority once the future of the ICT Shared Service is known.	Infrastructure Manager	March 2013	*	

Ref No.	Recommendation	Priority	Action to Date	Responsibility	Deadline	Resolved * or ✓	Revised Deadline
	handsets such as iPhones is adequately encrypted according to the sensitivity of the data						
10	Data stored on returned laptops or mobile devices should have all data removed prior to issuing the device to another user.	Minor	Position (June 2012) New (and some old) laptops are configured to not allow the user to save information locally. If there is a requirement to save data offsite, users are given encrypted memory sticks for use. There is a wider desktop replacement and reconfiguration project required to complete this fully. This is a large piece of work and would need to be prioritised in line with other priorities Position (August 2012) No change from June update	Infrastructure Manager	March 2012	(partly met)	March 2014
11	The ICT Shared Service should ensure that any laptops issued to remote users are configured to receive Operating System and antivirus updates	Important	Agreed Position (June 2012) Laptops are configured to receive windows updates. New laptops are configured to receive anti-virus updates, however this only occurs when the laptops are plugged into the Council network. Finalising this work would tie into the wider desktop project as per ref 10 above. Position (August 2012) No change from June update	Infrastructure Manager	March 2012	(partly met)	March 2014

Audit Plan 2011/2012

IT Proje	ct Management 2011/2012						
Final repor	t issued November 2011						
Ref No.	Recommendation	Priority	Action to Date	Responsibility	Deadline	Resolved × or ✓	Revised Deadline
02	An IT Strategy that supports both Councils' corporate strategies needs to be implemented to direct the forward usage of ICT within both Councils and the Shared Service. An IT strategy should be developed in consultation with the business strategies for both Councils and the Shared Service to ensure that IT development links into corporate priorities.	Minor	Agreed Position (August 2012) This has not progressed due to resource constraints caused by work on the ICT Outsourcing	Avni Patel, Head of ICT	October 2012	x	

Museum 2011/2012 Final report issued August 2011 Ref No. Action to Date Recommendation Priority Responsibility Deadline Revised Resolved Deadline × or √ The Museum Officer is liaising with Insurance Officers about insurance arrangements for collection and making a priority list. Progress @ November 2011 This is still on-going as there are decisions to The Heritage Officer should pass the be made about the insurance of the current catalogue of exhibits to the Insurance Officers and liaise with collections. Victoria is in consultation with the 4.2.7 them to see how they can be Regional Conservation Officer. March 2012 Medium Victoria Jones adequately covered through the Progress at February 2011 insurance. This is still on-going as there are decisions to be made about the insurance of the collections. Victoria Jones and Sarah Priestley have prepared a priority list and are in the process of getting quotations for valuation of this list.

Museum	n 2011/2012						
Final repor	t issued August 2011						
Ref No.	Recommendation	Priority	Action to Date	Responsibility	Deadline	Resolved × or ✓	Revised Deadline
			Progress May 2012 Valuations sought from Bonhams for 21 most significant items within the collection – total valuation £470,000 Victoria has produced a Collections Risk Management Policy, Collection Risk Assessment and an Emergency Plan which all contribute to the safe-guarding of the collection. All information now with Insurance Officer for consideration. The Bonhams valuations have been sent to the insurers for their files and the values have been incorporated within the existing "All Risks" policy. Zurich Municipal are also to send details of their "Fine Art" policy and these will be reviewed to determine whether this would be of benefit to the Council. Progress August 2012 As above – all information required by Museum has been sent to Insurance Officers for Consideration. Further Progress reports to be sort from Sarah Priestley, Museum & Heritage Manager as Victoria Jones leaving August 2012				July 2012
4.2.8	The Insurance Officer should be contacted to see how the valuation of items could be carried out to achieve best results. Suggestions could include valuing certain groups of items per financial year.	Medium	Heritage Officer and Museum Officer to investigate. There is no museum budget available for valuation of items at present. Progress @ November 2011 As 4.2.7 above Progress at February 2012 As 4.2.7 above	Sarah Priestley/ Victoria Jones	March 2012	✓	July 2012

Museun	n 2011/2012										
Final report issued August 2011											
Ref No.	Recommendation	Priority	Action to Date	Responsibility	Deadline	Resolved × or ✓	Revised Deadline				
			Progress May 2012 Valuations sort from Bonhams for 21 most significant items within the collection – total valuation £470,000. Further valuations to be sought on case by case basis when necessary. Insurance Officer to advise when valuations already sought will need to be updated. See also 4.2.7 above. Progress August 2012 As above – all information required by Museum has been sent to Insurance Officers for Consideration. Further Progress reports to be sort from Sarah Priestley, Museum & Heritage Manager as Victoria Jones leaving August 2012								

Money L	aundering 2011/2012						
Final report	t issued January 2012						
Ref No.	Recommendation	Priority	Action to Date	Responsibility	Deadline	Resolved × or √	Revised Deadline
4.1.7	Procedure notes should be updated to ensure that the correct agency's name is included on it. The notes should then be reviewed on a periodic basis to ensure they reflect the current requirements.	Low	Garry Turner/Nigel Pollard are drafting a new harmonised policy for TRDC and WBC which will include a new reporting form. The remaining recommendations will be addressed once these Policies have received approval. Position May 2012 We have drafted policy just need to finalise and circulate.	Bernard Clarke, Head of Strategic Finance	End of June 2012	✓	

Money Laundering 2011/2012 Final report issued January 2012 Ref No. Recommendation Priority Action to Date Responsibility Deadline Revised Resolved x or √ Deadline Garry Turner/Nigel Pollard are drafting a new harmonised policy for TRDC and WBC which will include a new reporting form. The remaining recommendations will be addressed A training session should be once these Policies have received approval. Bernard Clarke. arranged in conjunction with Three Head of Fnd of June October Position May 2012 4.1.14 Rivers District Council to ensure that Medium Strategic 2012 2012 We have drafted policy just need to finalise key staff that need to be given further Finance in-depth training are trained. and circulate. Position August 2012 Just amending Bribery act on E learning before issuing Garry Turner/Nigel Pollard are drafting a new harmonised policy for TRDC and WBC which will include a new reporting form. The Refresher training should then be arranged for all key staff especially remaining recommendations will be addressed once these Policies have received approval within 'CSC' and 'Revenues and Bernard Clarke. Benefits' at regular intervals (e.g. Head of End of June October 4.1.15 every two years) to ensure that Medium Position May 2012 Strategic 2012 2012 understanding of the practical We have drafted policy just need to finalise Finance requirements of the Money and circulate. Laundering legislation remains current. Position August 2012 Just amending Bribery act on E learning before issuina Garry Turner/Nigel Pollard are drafting a new harmonised policy for TRDC and WBC which will include a new reporting form. The remaining recommendations will be addressed once these Policies have received approval. Bernard Clarke. The MLRO should liaise with Human Head of Fnd of June Resources to include the Money 4.1.16 Medium Laundering policy on the induction Position May 2012 Strategic 2012

We have drafted policy just need to finalise

HR aware of new requirement and also that

and circulate.

Position August 2012

Finance

packs for new starters to WBC.

Money Laundering 2011/2012 Final report issued January 2012 Ref No. Recommendation Priority Action to Date Responsibility Deadline Revised Resolved x or √ Deadline of Bribery Act discussed at LT. They are reviewing induction. Garry Turner/Nigel Pollard are drafting a new The Deputy MLROs should be harmonised policy for TRDC and WBC which formally informed when they are will include a new reporting form. The appointed. When updating the remaining recommendations will be addressed procedure notes, the MLRO should Bernard Clarke. once these Policies have received approval ensure that the details of the Deputy Head of End of March 4.1.20 June 2012 High MLRO's along with the MLRO's are Strategic 2012 Position May 2012 on the procedure notes. (A Finance We have drafted policy just need to finalise recommendation has been made for and circulate. this information to be included on the e-tool). The Deputy MLROs should also liaise Garry Turner/Nigel Pollard are drafting a new harmonised policy for TRDC and WBC which with the Fraud Manager whenever suspected money laundering activity will include a new reporting form. The is reported to them. This would remaining recommendations will be addressed enhance the co-ordination of efforts once these Policies have received approval. Bernard Clarke. against money laundering as the Head of Fnd of June 4.1.22 Fraud Manager has experience Medium Position May 2012 Strategic 2012 We have drafted policy just need to finalise handling money laundering cases Finance that are reported to both WBC and and circulate. TRDC by outside organisations (like the Banks) who might be investigating a Watford business or resident. Garry Turner/Nigel Pollard are drafting a new harmonised policy for TRDC and WBC which will include a new reporting form. The remaining recommendations will be addressed once these Policies have received approval Guidance should be issued by the Bernard Clarke. MLRO to the Revenues Service to Head of Fnd of June October 4.1.26 explain the process for dealing with Medium Position May 2012 × Strategic 2012 2012 cases where refunds are requested We have drafted policy just need to finalise Finance by consistent over-payers. and circulate. Position August 2012 E learning training will address this guery. Just updating bribery act before issuing

Money Laundering 2011/2012

Final report issued January 2012

Ref No.	Recommendation	Priority	Action to Date	Responsibility	Deadline	Resolved x or √	Revised Deadline
			revised E learning				
4.2.7	The procedure notes should ensure that the MLRO or the Deputy MLRO checks other Council systems whenever suspect activity is reported to them to ensure that the same person is not paying other amounts due to the Council by cash as well.	Medium	Garry Turner/Nigel Pollard are drafting a new harmonised policy for TRDC and WBC which will include a new reporting form. The remaining recommendations will be addressed once these Policies have received approval Position May 2012 We have drafted policy just need to finalise and circulate.	Bernard Clarke, Head of Strategic Finance	End of June 2012	✓	
4.2.8	Paperwork gathered should be maintained by the MLRO to demonstrate the work carried out.	High	Garry Turner/Nigel Pollard are drafting a new harmonised policy for TRDC and WBC which will include a new reporting form. The remaining recommendations will be addressed once these Policies have received approval. Position May 2012 We have drafted policy just need to finalise and circulate.	Bernard Clarke, Head of Strategic Finance	End of March 2012	✓	June 2012
4.1.10	The dates of the Money Laundering regulations should be included on the e-tool. Other regulations that are relevant, namely the Terrorism Act 2000 and Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, should also be mentioned to make the tool fully inclusive.	High	Position is amendments drafted. Learning and Development make changes to the Learning Pool package. Carmel is the expert in this area and is on maternity leave. Linda Brooks is trying to progress the matter. We are therefore awaiting the updates. Position May 2012 Still awaiting Carmel to update e learning and is scheduled as urgent on her return from maternity leave in 3 weeks	Garry Turner, Fraud Manager	End of December 2011.	✓	June 2012
4.1.11	Names and contact details for the MLRO and the Deputy MLRO(s) should also be included on the e-tool along with the limits of cash that would trigger the money laundering process.	High	Position is amendments drafted. Learning and Development make changes to the Learning Pool package. Carmel is the expert in this area and is on maternity leave. Linda Brooks is trying to progress the matter. We are therefore awaiting the updates.	Garry Turner, Fraud Manager	End of December 2011.	✓	June 2012

Money L	aundering 2011/2012										
Final report issued January 2012											
Ref No.	Recommendation	Priority	Action to Date	Responsibility	Deadline	Resolved x or √	Revised Deadline				
			Position May 2012 Still awaiting Carmel to update e learning and is scheduled as urgent on her return from maternity leave in 3 weeks								
4.1.12	The e-tool should also mention the Money Laundering procedure notes introduced in 2006 which would add to the information already included in the e-tool.	High	Position is amendments drafted. Learning and Development make changes to the Learning Pool package. Carmel is the expert in this area and is on maternity leave. Linda Brooks is trying to progress the matter. We are therefore awaiting the updates. Position May 2012 Still awaiting Carmel to update e learning and is scheduled as urgent on her return from maternity leave in 3 weeks	Garry Turner, Fraud Manager	End of December 2011.	✓	June 2012				

Vehicle I	/ehicle Maintenance 2011/2012										
Final report issued February 2012											
Ref No.	Recommendation	Priority	Action to Date	Responsibility	Deadline	Resolved × or √	Revised Deadline				
5.1.2	Systems for monitoring the Serco contract should be fully documented and distributed to the relevant officer at the earliest opportunity.	High	Agreed Position May 2012: Draft on circulation for comment and will be finalised and adopted by 31 May 2012 Position August 2012 Work on the waste and recycling/ street	Depot & Transport Manager	March 2012	×	May 2012 October 2012				

Vehicle	ehicle Maintenance 2011/2012											
Final report issued February 2012												
Ref No.	Recommendation	Priority	Action to Date	Responsibility	Deadline	Resolved × or ✓	Revised Deadline					
			cleansing redesign has meant that this recommendation has not progressed since May.									

Gifts and	d Hospitality 2011/2012						
Final repor	t issued March 2012						
Ref No.	Recommendation	Priority	Action to Date	Responsibility	Deadline	Resolved × or ✓	Revised Deadline
4.3.8	When updates are made to the Codes of Conduct to reflect the implications of the Bribery Act 2010, it should be ensured that appropriate amendments are also made to the contract procedure rules and the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy.	Medium	Anti-fraud and corruption policy is being updated by the Fraud Manager. Position May 2012 Due to pressures of work on Procurement Manager the contract procedure rules will be updated for September Council Anti-fraud and corruption policy is being updated by the Fraud Manager. Position August 2012 Ongoing work pressures on the Procurement Manager mean that the redrafting of the Contract Procedure Rules and the standard contract terms & conditions has been postponed until December 2012.	Carol Chen, Head of Legal and Property Services	End of May 2012	×	September 2012 December 2012

eFinancials Post Implementation Review and Data Security 2011/2012

Final report issued March 2012

Ref No.	Recommendation	Priority	Action to Date	Responsibility	Deadline	Resolved × or √	Revised Deadline
5.3.4	There should be adequate management trails in place which record remote access and changes to eFinancial systems by ABS and Well Data. Also these management trails should be reviewed by a senior officer to ensure that only valid access and changes are made to eFinancials and this control procedure should be evidenced for management review purposes. The review of the management trails may be achieved by using an automated software tool.	High	The servers log a certain amount of change and also remote access is logged by the AppGate system. ICT will investigate with ABS whether there is additional audit logging available at the application level and the potential cost to the councils of implementing this. It should be noted that ICT Service have a defined Change Management Control Procedure in place which has been reviewed by Internal Audit. Also all changes to efinancials system are filtered via Senior Accounts Assistant who logs the request with ICT Service Desk. Furthermore ICT Service have access to review ABS and Well Data helpdesk systems which record work done on our systems. Position (August 2012) This matter is still under investigation with the suppliers of the system and Well Data.	Head of ICT	December 2012	×	
5.5.5	The ICT service should allocate responsibility to a named senior officer for ensuring that penetration testing is carried out annually and that the issues raised in the report are addressed promptly. This Officer should report vulnerabilities identified as part of the penetration testing which relate to Service systems to the appropriate System Administrator. (High)	High	A quote for the next round of penetration tests has been requested from the supplier at our last meeting on 11 th January 2012. Position (August 2012) Penetration tests for both councils were undertaken in June 2012 and the recommendations within the report are being worked on by the ICT Team.	Infrastructure Manager (or Service Provider if outsourced at time of ITHC).	December 2012	✓	

	eFinancials Post Implementation Review and Data Security 2011/2012										
Ref No.	Recommendation	Priority	Action to Date	Responsibility	Deadline	Resolved × or √	Revised Deadline				
5.5.7	There should be a process in place to address high risk issues identified at the time of the penetration test being carried out. These issues should be addressed by a senior officer at the earliest opportunity and the action taken should be recorded for management review purposes.	High	See 5.5.5 above. Position (August 2012) Remedial actions on the high risk issues identified by the report are addressed as a priority by the team and we have procured external consultancy due to take place in September 2012 to assist is in implementing these.	Infrastructure Manager (or Service Provider if outsourced at time of ITHC).	December 2012	✓					

Accounts	Accounts Payable 2011/2012									
Final report	issued July 2012									
Ref No.	Recommendation	Priority	Action to Date	Responsibility	Deadline	Resolved × or √	Revised Deadline			

Account	ts Payable 2011/2012						
•	rt issued July 2012					_	_
Ref No.	Recommendation	Priority	Action to Date	Responsibility	Deadline	Resolved × or √	Revised Deadline
4.1.4	Heads of all services across both authorities should be reminded by the Head of Finance to ensure that supplier invoices for their service are addressed to the Accounts Payable Team, which is in keeping with the established procedure. Any services needing to review an invoice before receipting it can do so by looking at the electronic copy of the invoice on eFinancials. Once the service is happy, the invoice can be receipted which would enable the Accounts Payable team to pay it promptly.	Medium	A reminder will be sent. There is no need for the service to view an actual copy of the invoice as invoices are scanned on the system. The reminder will include the correct process of raising orders prior to receipt of invoice. See 4.1.9 below.	Head of Finance	September 2012	✓	
4.1.9	The AP team should monitor the number of PO's that are raised after invoices are received on a quarterly basis for both authorities to see if any improvement in trend is noticeable and to identify any persistent areas of failure. These figures should be published to show the rise or fall in the use of commitment accounting by services across both councils.	Medium	Regular monitoring will not be possible following resource reductions to accounts payable team. However should resources allow the Accounts Payable team will address this issue.	Senior Finance Officer	Not applicable	✓	

Final report issued August 2012								
Ref No.	Recommendation	Priority	Action to Date	Responsibility	Deadline	Resolved × or ✓	Revised Deadline	
01	An IT Asset Management Policy should be developed to define the objectives, scope, and resource requirements for IT Asset Management. Additionally, procedures for the management of all physical IT assets owned by the Council from procurement and maintenance to their disposal and destruction should be documented and procedures for performing asset management activities, such as asset identification, control, status accounting, auditing and analysing assets should be defined for all staff involved in maintaining the asset register.	Important	Partly Agreed. Non-IT equipment is not the responsibility of the ICT Shared Service and will need to be raised with the appropriate managers listed below. Position (August 2012) No progress to report since this report was issued in August 2012	Avni Patel, Head of ICT	December 2012	×		
02	The responsibility for IT asset management should be formally assigned.	Minor	Agreed Position (August 2012) This is included within the JD of the Service Desk Manager and has also been identified as a requirement in the ICT Tender for potential suppliers to fulfil.	Avni Patel Head of ICT	September 2012	~		
03	Management should perform a review of all assets recorded within the Asset Register to help ensure that the data input is up-to-date, complete and accurate. The following details should in particular be recorded for all assets to facilitate monitoring and tracking of all IT hardware and software.	Important	Agreed Position (August 2012) No progress to report since this report was issued in August 2012. It may be most practical to do this during the transition phase if the service is to be outsourced.	Avni Patel Head of ICT	December 2012	x		

IT – Asset Management and Virus Protection 2011/2012 Final report issued August 2012 Ref No. Recommendation Priority Action to Date Responsibility Deadline Resolved Revised × or √ Deadline 04 All hardware assets should be **Important** Aareed Avni Patel August 2012 labelled upon their delivery and Head of ICT stored securely when they are not Position (August 2012) A reminder has been sent to all ICT Staff to in use. ensure that this process is adhered to. Avni Patel August 2012 05 A review should be undertaken to Agreed Important Head of ICT ensure that system update access to the IT Asset Register is Position (August 2012) restricted on a need to know basis. This is scheduled for completion this month. 06 The Shared Service should ensure **Important** Agreed Avni Patel August 2012 that printers and scanners are Head of ICT recorded on the Asset Register. Position (August 2012) No progress to report since this report was issued in August 2012. It may be most practical to do this during the transition phase if the service is to be outsourced. August 2012 07 Management should review the Part agreed - access to the council Avni Patel Minor physical security applied to IT building and meeting rooms is via a Head of ICT security badge. Only the ICT equipment in equipment to ensure that all equipment is appropriately the reception area is accessible to the secured when in use within public. Council premises. Specifically this Whilst we agree that equipment in the ICT should ensure that: area that is new or unused will be locked away, the meeting room bookings are automated and the council does not have • IT equipment is locked away when not in use; and the resource to manage access to a locked cabinet for meetings. • All portable ICT equipment has cable locks assigned Position (August 2012) when issued. Any new portable equipment will be procured with Kensington locks from this

IT – Asset Management and Virus Protection 2011/2012

Final report issued August 20	12
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-	rt issued August 2012	•		1		,	
Ref No.	Recommendation	Priority	Action to Date	Responsibility	Deadline	Resolved × or √	Revised Deadline
			point on. All laptops in WBC meeting rooms are already locked with Kensington locks. The rooms in TRDC are only associable via an ID badge. Neither councils have the capacity to unlock and lock equipment for each different meeting that takes place therefore this recommendation will not be implemented.				
08	The Shared Service should develop procedures to ensure that when IT assets are no longer required that they are marked as disposed of on the asset register. Equipment that is physically destroyed either in house or by a third party should be periodically reconciled to the Asset Register to ensure that all hardware has been securely disposed.	Important	Agreed Position (August 2012) No progress to report since this report was issued in August 2012	Avni Patel Head of ICT	December 2012	×	
09	We recommend that antivirus configuration settings should be consistent across both WDC and TRDC to ensure settings have been updated. In addition processes should be established to periodically review the current status of Anti-Virus updates to all devices managed by the Shared Service.	Important	Agreed Position (August 2012) No progress to report since this report was issued in August 2012	Avni Patel Head of ICT	December 2012	×	

Recruitn	nent 2011/2012						
Final report	t issued August 2012						
Ref No.	Recommendation	Priority	Action to Date	Responsibility	Deadline	Resolved × or √	Revised Deadline
4.1.8	To provide consistent confirmation of the authority to advertise a post and the relevant details associated with the funding for that post a copy of the Request to fill post should be provided by services for all future vacancies prior to advertising to recruit to those vacancies.	Medium	Position August 2012 Stipulated in Recruitment policy and HR Advisors fully aware of the requirement	Cathy Watson, Human Resources Manager	End of July 2012.	✓	
4.1.10	Copies of the Request to fill posts should be filed on the personal file of the member of staff appointed to the post by the HR officer to demonstrate that authorisation was obtained before posts were advertised.	Medium	Position August 2012 Detailed on HR recruitment checklist and HR Advisors fully aware of requirement	Cathy Watson, Human Resources Manager	End of July 2012.	✓	
4.1.15	Copies of ID documents taken should be marked to confirm that the copy is of the original documents. The officer taking the copy should then initial and date the copy.	Medium	Position August 2012 HR Advisors fully aware of requirement	Cathy Watson, Human Resources Manager	With immediate effect.	✓	
4.1.20	Amendments should be made to the appointment letter/contract of employment templates to ensure that exact start date is specified for HR records.	High	This is HR responsibility under the new policy.	Cathy Watson, Human Resources Manager	Already implemented.	✓	

Final report issued August 2012							
Ref No.	Recommendation	Priority	Action to Date	Responsibility	Deadline	Resolved x or √	Revised Deadline
4.1.24	Information on the checklist should be updated in full including initials of the HR Officer completing the action and the date when it was completed.	Medium	Position (August 2012) Checklist updated and HR Advisors fully aware of requirement	Cathy Watson, Human Resources Manager	With immediate effect.	✓	
4.3.10	HR should ensure that six monthly reports are received from Comensura confirming compliance by agencies with appropriate vetting controls.	High	Position (August 2012) 6 monthly audit report received in August 2012; calendar reminder entry for February 2013 made. Confirmation of requirement with Comensura	Cathy Watson, Human Resources Manager	End of July 2012.	✓	
4.3.14	WBC and TRDC should review the potential benefits of using the Hertfordshire County framework for procurement of agency staff.	Medium	Position (August 2012) Agreed. The County framework should be signed by September and a presentation will then be made to District Heads of HR to see who wishes to use the new framework. HR will review at that stage.	Cathy Watson, Human Resources Manager	End of March 2013.	×	

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Audit Plan 2012/2013

Closure	of Accounts for 2011/2012						
Final report	t issued June 2012						
Ref No.	Recommendation	Priority	Action to Date	Responsibility	Deadline	Resolved × or √	Revised Deadline
4.2.8	Lessons from the 2011/12 process must be captured and turned into an improvement plan for the affected Services. Progress against this plan must be monitored during the year to ensure that the necessary improvements are implemented in advance of the closure process for 2012/13.	HIGH	Agreed. Finance will continue its practice of improving the annual closing programme to reflect emerging issues from the 2011/12 Closing of Accounts.	Finance Manager (Stephen Exton)	March 2013	×	

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Agenda Item 9

PART A

Report to: Audit Committee

Date of 25th September 2012

meeting:

Report of: Audit Manager

Title: Internal Audit Progress Report

1.0 **SUMMARY**

This report and appendices provide updated information on the work undertaken by Internal Audit on the 2011/2012 Audit Plan in the period 1st April 2012 to 31st August 2012 and on the 2012/2013 Audit Plan from 1st April 2012 to 31st August 2012.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 The contents of the report be noted.

Contact Officer:

For further information on this report please contact: Mark Allen – Audit Manager telephone extension 8294 (Watford) or (01923) 727463 (Three Rivers) email: mark.allen@watford.gov.uk

Report approved by: Bernard Clarke – Head of Strategic Finance.

3.0 **DETAILS**

- 3.1 This report covers the work undertaken by Internal Audit since the last report to Audit Committee in June 2012 to progress the Audit Plan for 2011/2012.

 Appendix (1) shows the position on audits carried forward from 2011/12 and with audits from the 2012/13 Audit Plan, including cumulative time taken for the year compared to the time allocated in the annual audit plan.

 Appendix (2) shows the local performance measures for 2012/13 to 31st August 2012.
- The work undertaken to 31st August 2012 on the planned audits for 2011/2012 and 2012/2013 as listed in Appendix 1 has not, at this stage, generated issues that need to be brought to the attention of the Audit Committee, other than as previously reported.

4.0 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial

- 4.1.1 The Head of Strategic Finance comments that there are no financial implications in this report.
- 4.2 **Legal Issues** (Monitoring Officer)
- 4.2.1 The Head of Legal and Property Services comments that there are no legal issues in the report. The Council has a responsibility to ensure that it maintains an adequate and effective system of internal audit of its accounting records and of its system of internal control in accordance with proper practices in relation to internal control.

4.3 Potential Risks

Potentiai Risks			
Potential Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Overall
			score
The most significant potential risk is the	1	3	3
possibility that Internal Audit work is of po	oor		
quality and the service ineffective. This co	ould		
lead to an increase in control weaknesse	s, in		
greater risks to the Council and to a loss	of		
confidence by the external auditors in Into			
Audit and the Council's control environme			

Background Papers

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report. If you wish to inspect or take copies of the background papers, please contact the officer named on the front page of the report.

Audit Files

File Reference

None.

Work Progress on Individual Audits 2012/2013

Project	Progress as at 31 August 2012	Days Allocated 2012/13	Days Taken 2012/13	
2011/2012 Audits Carried Forward				
Shared Audits				
Payroll	Final Report 16/08/12	-	12.97	
Recruitment	Final Report 31/07/12	-	4.20	
NNDR	Draft report stage	-	9.60	
Council Tax	Draft report stage	-	9.23	
Benefits	Draft Report Stage	-	1.80	
Creditors	Final Report 20/07/12	-	5.40	
Debtors	Final Report 20/08/12	-	16.10	
FMS Reconciliations	Draft report stage	-	4.17	
IT - Disaster Recovery and Back-up (Deloittes)	Draft report stage	-	N/A	
IT - Asset Management (Deloittes)	Final Report 01/08/12	-	N/A	
IT – Virus Protection (Deloittes)	Final Report 01/08/12	-	N/A	
Watford BC 2011/12 Carried Forward:				
Income Collection	Draft Report Stage	-	21.53	
Treasury Management	Draft Report Stage	-	9.90	
Budget Monitoring	Draft Report Stage	-	1.00	
Financial Procedure Rules	Draft Report Stage	-	0.00	
2012/13 Audit Plan				
Shared Systems Audits:				
Payroll		14		
NNDR		12		
Council Tax		12		
Benefits Administration		15		
Creditors (Accounts Payable)		11		
Debtors (Accounts Receivable)		11		

Project	Progress as at 31 August 2012	Days Allocated 2012/13	Days Taken 2012/13
FMS - Reconciliations		14	
FMS – Journals and Internal Transfers		5	
Income Collection		16	
Recruitment – follow up		5	
eFinancials Upgrade	Work in Progress	7	0.40
Council Tax Support preparations		5	
Final Accounts 2011/12 preparations	Final Report 25/06/12	5	3.37
Implementation of new ICT arrangements	Work In Progress	7	0.47
Online expense claims		5	
West Herts Crematorium	Final Report 10/08/12	4	7.07
IT – Network Infrastructure (Deloittes)		10	
IT – Virtualisation (Deloittes)	Draft Report Stage	12	N/A
IT – Governance (Deloittes)		7	
Watford Audits 2012/13:			
Treasury Management		4.5	
Budget Monitoring		7	
Asset Management and Capital Accounting	Work in Progress	6	1.67
Benefits Subsidy Claim	Work in Progress	5	0.50
Cyber-crime awareness and prevention	Work in Progress	10	1.93
Bribery Act 2010 and Money Laundering		5	
Project and Change Management		6	
Risk Management	Allocated	5	
Fraud Prevention & Detection Arrangements		8	
Channel Shift Programme		5	
Charter Place Market and Commercial Rent Income		5	
Emergency Planning Processes (Olympics Readiness)	Final Report 20/07/12	5	4.93
Partnerships	Work in Progress	5	0.13
Carbon Management	Work in Progress	4	2.97
Procurement	Work in Progress	7	1.77
Data Transparency	Allocated	5	0.00
Data Protection	Work in Progress	5	1.00
Corporate Governance		5	
Commissioning framework for Community		5	

Project	Progress as at 31 August 2012	Days Allocated 2012/13	Days Taken 2012/13
Services – advisory support			
Museum – Care of the collection		5	
Housing redesign – advisory support		5	
Colosseum – Post Implementation Review		5	

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LOCAL PERFORMANCE MEASURES 2012/2013

<u>Criteria</u>	Target p.a. (as per Audit Plan)	Actual To 31 August 2012	Comment
% of annual audit plan achieved.	92%	N/A	This is monitored throughout the year but is not meaningful until towards the year end.
Sickness – average days per employee.	4	1	
Training – average days	4	1.6	Time includes internal and external seminars and training. All auditors hold a relevant qualification.

Criteria	Target p.a.	Actual To 31 August 2012	Comment
Final audit reports issued within 10 available working days of agreement to draft report.	100%	100%	
Level of customer satisfaction	94%	99.38%	Based on 1 satisfaction survey received in respect of 2012/13 to date.

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