

**COMMITTEE: AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE**

**DATE: 11 DECEMBER 2007**

**SUBJECT: INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN UPDATE – 2007/8**

**REPORT BY: HEAD OF AUDIT**

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**IMPLICATIONS:**

**LEGAL**

**COMMUNITY**

**SAFETY**

**EQUALITIES**

**ENVIRONMENT**

**FINANCIAL**

**RISKS**

**STAFFING**

**OTHER**

**WARDS AFFECTED: NONE**

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**PURPOSE**

- 1 To update the Audit and Governance Committee on the work of the Internal Audit Service.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2 **The Committee is asked to receive the internal audit plan update report for 2007/8 which covers the period April 2007 to 18 November 2007.**

**BACKGROUND**

- 3 The Council has a statutory responsibility under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 to maintain an effective internal audit of its activities. Internal Audit is an important element of the Council's risk management arrangements, in terms of the work that it undertakes in evaluating and reporting upon the control environment across the Council. The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 also require that the Council shall be responsible for ensuring the financial management of the Council is adequate and effective and that the Council has sound systems of internal control that facilitate the effective exercise of the Council's functions.

## REPORT

4 Since the last update the main areas of audit are:-

- Assurance Audits

Completion of BVPI's (on behalf of External Audit)  
Completion of Teachers Pensions Agency Contributions Claim.

- Consultancy and Advice

Corporate Governance  
National Fraud Initiative

- IM Audits

Internet / EMail

- Special Investigations

Adult Education Income  
Crawley Pre-School Accounts and Grant

- Risk Management

Service risk workshops  
Service risk audits

- Value for Money

HR Review  
IM Review  
Administration Review

- External Work

Active Luton  
Luton Airport

5 There has been significant contribution to value for money with internal audit leading reviews on administration duties, HR and IM. For each review a few key areas that could produce quick wins and/or significant savings have been identified to enable the work to concentrate on these.

6 The performance indicators are in Appendix A and show a good performance.

7 For the period April to November 2007 we have issued 54 final reports. There are six for which either a limited or no assurance on control was reported. The detail for these reports has been previously reported to this Committee.

8 Childrens Centres Follow-Up Audit

It is pleasing to report that the second follow up audit has found that the management action plan has now been implemented. There are no outstanding issues.

9 The six schools audits on behalf of Bedfordshire County Council's internal audit service have been completed although not all the reports have been finalised. This is a good example of joint working.

**RISK IMPLICATIONS**

10 There are no risk implications to this report other than those set out in the body of the report.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

11 There are no financial implications to this report other than those set out in the body of the report. This has been agreed with the Head of Corporate Finance on 28 November 2007.

**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

12 There are no direct legal implications to this report save for those set out in the body of the report. This has been agreed with Richard Stevens, Head of Legal Services, on 28 November 2007.

**APPENDICES**

13 The following appendices are attached to this report:-

Appendix A - main performance indicators.

Appendix B - details of the audit work undertaken for the period April 2007 to 18 November 2007.

Appendix C - list of final reports issued April 2007 to November 2007

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**  
**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 100D**

- 14 (a) The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 (as amended) .
- (b) The CIPFA Code of Practice for Internal Audit in Local Government in the United Kingdom.
- (c) Internal Audit Reports