

# *Internal Audit Progress Report*

Update to the Audit Committee on  
Internal Audit activity

Northampton  
Borough Council

July 2013

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## ***Introduction***

We are committed to keeping the Audit Committee up to date with internal audit progress and activity throughout the year. This summary has been prepared to update you on our activity since the last meeting of the Audit Committee and to bring to your attention matters that are relevant to your responsibilities as members of the Authority's Audit Committee.

## ***2013/14 audit plan***

We have undertaken work in accordance with the 2013/14 Internal Audit Plan which was approved by the Audit Committee at its meeting in May 2013.

An outturn statement detailing assignments undertaken and actual activity for the year is shown in Appendix One.

## Reporting activity and progress

For the 2013/14 Audit Plan to date, final reports have been issued in the following areas:

- Bring Your Own Devices  
We have classified our findings in this area as **Low Risk**. The system of control in operation within 'bring your own devices' is generally sound. Management attention is, however, required in implementing data encryption of externally connected USB devices.

Draft reports have been issued / are being prepared for the following areas:

- Treasury Management
- Car Parking

Fieldwork has also been undertaken / is in progress in the following areas:

- Asset Management
- Collection Fund

## Conclusion of 2012/13 audit plan

When we issued our Annual Report for 2012/13 in May 2013, a number of reports were still in draft pending receipt of management comment and action plans. These reports have been concluded as follows, with no change to the previously reported draft risk ratings:

Review	Status / Comment	Overall risk rating
Payroll	Final	Low
Human Resources – Potentially Violent People	Final	Low
Landlord Services - Gas Safety Checks & Property Transfer Process	Findings discussed with management. No comment provided to draft report.	Low
Housing Allocations	Final	Medium
Use of EFECT to rate progress on Equalities	Final	Low
Shared Services Transition Planning	Findings discussed with management. No comment provided to draft report.	N/A (non assurance)
Anti Fraud Health Check (follow up review)	Findings discussed with management. No comment provided to draft report.	N/A (non assurance)

# Appendix 1 – Plan Progress

Ref	Auditable Unit	Planned audit days	Actual audit days to date	Status update
<b>A</b>	<b>Cross-cutting</b>			
	Risk Management	8		
	Business Continuity	10		
	Governance	10		
	Corporate Fraud	8		
	Procurement	10		
	Treasury Management	5	5	Draft report issued
	Budgetary Control	8		
	Insurance claims	8		
	General Ledger	7		
	Debtors	7		
	Creditors	6		
	Payroll	6		
	Cash	6		
	Creditors (IBS)	7		
	Fixed Assets	8		
	Expenses	5		
	Housing Benefits	8		
	Debt Recovery	5		
	Collection Fund	7	4	Field work in progress
	Housing Rents	8		
<b>Total</b>		<b>147</b>	<b>9</b>	
<b>B</b>	<b>Departmental</b>			
	Human Resources - <i>Sickness and absence</i>	8		
	Finance – <i>IT GCC review</i>	10		
	Landlord Services - <i>Travis Perkins</i>	15		
	Strategic Housing - <i>Housing allocations</i>	8		
	Planning	8		
	ICT Operations/ Business Development - <i>Bring your own devices</i>	14	14	Final report issued
	Environmental Services	15		

	Regeneration and Development - <i>Regeneration project</i>	15		
	Asset management	7	4	Field work in progress
	Town Centre Management – <i>Car Parking</i>	10		Field work complete, report being drafted
	Culture and Leisure - <i>Delapre Park concerts</i>	8		
<b>Total</b>		<b>118</b>	<b>18</b>	
<b>VE</b>	<b>Value Enhancement</b>			
	Post LGSS reviews	30		
<b>Total</b>		<b>30</b>		
<b>PM</b>	<b>Project Management/Other</b>			
	PwC tracker	-	-	System design has commenced
	Project management	20	4	Ongoing
<b>Total</b>		<b>20</b>	<b>4</b>	
<b>TOTAL PLANNED DAYS</b>		<b>315</b>	<b>31</b>	

# Appendix 2 – Recent PwC Publications

As part of our regular reporting to you, we plan to keep you up to date with the emerging thought leadership we publish. The PricewaterhouseCoopers Public Sector Research Centre (‘PSRC’) produces a range of research and is a leading centre for insights, opinion and research on best practice in government and the public sector.

All publications can be read in full at [www.psrc.pwc.com/](http://www.psrc.pwc.com/)



## *The Local State We're In PwC's annual local government survey, 2013*

This PwC publication finds that UK local authorities have once again successfully delivered against an ambitious programme of financial savings over the last year without impacting the quality or quantity of services. But the survey points to nervousness about meeting rising demands for services and protecting the frontline in future in the face of further public spending cuts.



## *Gaming the Cuts: Local government in 2018*

Local authority decision makers in the UK are attempting to bridge a widening financial gap. Against this backdrop this report sets out the potential implications of future spending reviews out to 2018. The purpose is not to add more detail to an already fatalistic picture but to recommend new policies and approaches that can be applied to future fiscal challenges.



## *At risk? Dealing with failure*

No government wants a provider of public services to fail. But as public services are opened up to more competitive pressures, it is likely that under performance will no longer be hidden and provider failure will then appear to occur more frequently.



## *Brave new world? Different ways of working*

Today's pressures will significantly impact on the way public services are delivered in future, whether by public sector organisations or by a mix of other providers. Here we examine how public sector organisations need to re-define their purpose and future ways of working by becoming more agile and managing demand more effectively.



## *Opening out? New approaches to service delivery*

The UK Government has committed to opening up public services to a diverse range of providers competing to offer a better service for users. But why is opening up public services to new providers such a priority? Does a new market for 'public service partnerships' exist yet? Here we discuss the implications for the partnership models needed to deliver public services.

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