

Audit and Governance Committee



Date of meeting:	25 July 2022
Title of Report:	Audit Actions Review
Lead Member:	Cllr Mark Shayer
Lead Strategic Director:	Brendan Arnold, Service Director for Finance
Author:	Paul Looby, Head of Financial Planning & Reporting
Contact Email:	paul.looby@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	PL/AC
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

To provide the Committee with an update on the tracking of Audit recommendations from Grant Thornton and Devon Audit Partnership.

Recommendations and Reasons

Members of the Audit and Governance Committee to note the content of the report.

Reason: To update members on audit recommendations.

Alternative options considered and rejected

None as the Committee agreed to receive an update of all audit recommendations.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

The implementation of all agreed audit recommendations are fundamentally linked to delivering the priorities within the Council's Corporate Plan and assists with ensuring limited resources are allocated to priorities which will maximise the benefits to the residents of Plymouth.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

Delivery of the audit plan will assist the Council in delivering value for money services.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

No direct carbon/environmental impacts arising from the recommendations.

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

Implementation of agreed audit recommendations is an intrinsic element of the Council's overall corporate governance, risk management and internal control framework.

Appendices

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I	Devon Audit Partnership Audit							

Background papers:

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

Fin	BA22.2 3.72	Leg	EJ/38851/ 13.7.22(2)	Mon Off		HR		Assets		Strat Proc	
Originating Senior Leadership Team member Brendan Arnold, Service Director Finance & S151											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes											
Date agreed 13/7/2022											
Cabinet Member approval: Cllr Mark Shayler											
Date approved: 13/07/2022											

Audit Action Review

I. Introduction

- I.1 Audit Committee has agreed to receive regular reports which set track the completion of agreed recommendations to improve controls and minimise exposure to risk. This will provide ongoing assurance to Senior Management and Members (Audit & Governance Committee) that scheduled actions are taking place. As previously reported the Council recognises and responds promptly and effectively to the independent assurance work completed by our external auditors, Grant Thornton (GT) and our internal auditors, Devon Audit Partnership (DAP).
- I.2 There are no outstanding audit recommendations for Grant Thornton. The completion of internal audit recommendations are shown in Appendix one.

Appendix I

Status of Internal Audit Recommendations March '22

The chart to the right provides an overall breakdown of progress made by management in implementing audit recommendations. The pie chart shows the figures in percentage format and the legend details the actual numbers.

Not all recommendations can be quickly and easily implemented with some having other, longer dependencies which have to be addressed, before the recommendation can be actioned.

In addition to the 66 recommendations showing as fully implemented, management responses received indicate that a further 24 recommendations are currently work in progress (partially implemented). See table I below for breakdown across audits.

Of the 56 recommendations not yet implemented, it should be noted that 32 are the result of three audit reviews where management actions have recently been agreed and will therefore have target implementation dates in the future. Table 2 below provides a brief summary of all of the recommendations which are now overdue (including those which have been partially implemented), based on the target date provided by management when the draft report was finalised.

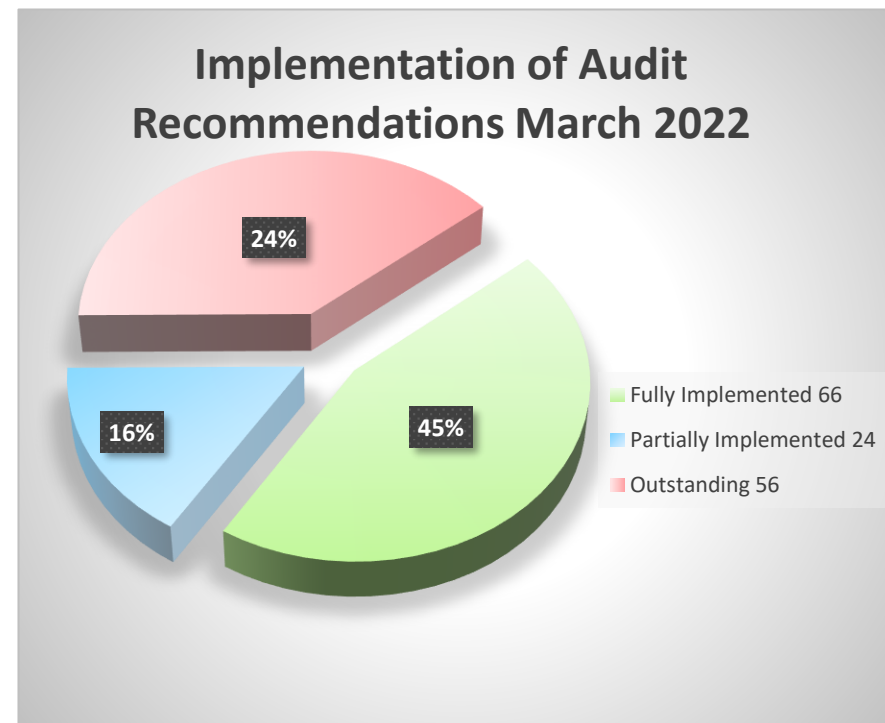


Table I

Choose an item.

Audits	Total Number of Recommendations	Fully Implemented	No Further Action	Partially Implemented	Not Yet Implemented
Council Tax	11	10		1	
Creditors	6	4		2	
Sundry Debtors	9	5		3	1
Capital Programme	11	5		1	5
Purchasing Cards	11	7		2	2
Electoral Registration (Follow-Up)	4	3			1
Special Guardianship Orders	36	23		12	1
Street Lighting	14	9		3	2
Risk Management	3				3
CYPF Additional Spend	9				9
Commercial Waste (New)	11				11
Disclosure & Barring Service (New)	14				14
IR35 Off-Payroll Working (New)	7				7
TOTAL	146	66		24	56

The

audits listed below have been removed from Table 1 above as recommendations have been actioned.

- Business Rates
- Empty Homes Scheme
- Housing Benefits
- Information Asset Management
- Main Accounting System
- Treasury Management

- Data Quality

Table 2

Audits	Overdue Recommendations	Summary Update
Council Tax	1	Not yet fully implemented due to pandemic and pressure on resources.
Capital Programme	6	The review of the capital programme governance arrangements is underway, however has been delays due to a vacancy of the Business Partner for Capital, an appointment has recently been made. It should be noted that the recommendations outstanding are all low propriety.
Sundry Debtors	2	The recommendation relating to the Income & Credit Management Policy is progressing, the other overdue recommendation relating to Debt Recovery & Enforcement is pending decisions regarding approach.
Special Guardianship Orders	10	Substantial progress has been made in respect of the nine partially implemented recommendations with pending policy and practice changes required for full completion. One management action remains reliant on the evolution of the Eclipse system.
Street Lighting	5	Two recommendations are partially completed with full implementation reliant on resolving software and hardware issues. The other recommendations on data use and associated workflow remain outstanding due to pending decisions and software and hardware implementations.
TOTAL	24	