

Audit and Governance Committee



Date of meeting:	18 February 2025
Title of Report:	ASC Debt Management 2024/25 – Update January 2025
Lead Member:	Councillor Mark Lowry (Cabinet Member for Finance)
Lead Strategic Director:	David Northey (Service Director for Finance)
Author:	Louise Clapton, Audit Manager
Contact Email:	Louise.clapton@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	AUD/LC
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

To provide Audit and Governance Committee with an update on the implementation of management action agreed to address observations made in the ASC Debt Management report, issued with a Limited Assurance opinion in November 2024.

Progress has been made in addressing the observations made in our original audit with six of the eleven management actions having been fully implemented and five partially implemented. Whilst the overall level of assurance has improved it remains Limited, however it is anticipated that high priority actions will be completed by 30/04/2025 which once implemented will increase the overall opinion to Reasonable.

Recommendations and Reasons

The Audit and Governance Committee are asked to note the progress to implement of agreed management actions.

Reason: To update members on progress to implement agreed management actions.

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 assists the council in the provision of quality public services which also demonstrate value for money. It has also helped ensure an effective control environment is maintained in these financially challenging times.

Financial Risks

Failure to deliver the audit recommendations may have financial consequences.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

No impacts directly arising from this report.

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

* When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.

No impacts directly arising from this report. The work of the internal audit service is an intrinsic element of the Council's overall corporate governance, risk management and internal control framework.

Appendices

*Add rows as required to box below

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 12 of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	ASC Debt Management 2024/25 - Update January 2025							

Background papers:

*Add rows as required to box below

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

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	DJN. 24.25. 162	Leg	LS/00 0010 75/1/ AC/6/ 2/25	Mon Off	N/A	HR	N/A	Asset s	N/A	Strat Proc	N/A
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: David Northey, Service Director for Finance											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes											
Date agreed: 30/01/2025											
Cabinet Member approval: Cllr Laing, via email											
Date approved: 05/02/2025											

