



**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE**

**MUNICIPAL YEAR 2024/25**

**4<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2024**

**ITEM NO. 8**

**INTERNAL AUDIT RECOMMENDATION MONITORING**

**REPORT OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND GROUP DIRECTOR –  
FINANCE, DIGITAL AND FRONTLINE SERVICES**

**Author(s): Marc Crumbie & Lisa Cumpston**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 This report provides Members of the Governance and Audit Committee with a position statement in respect of the status of the recommendations made by the Internal Audit Service.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Review the content of the report and seek assurance that recommendations made by the Internal Audit Service are being implemented within agreed timescales.

**3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The Governance and Audit Committee is responsible for overseeing the Council's overall risk management, governance and internal control environment. A key element of this responsibility is to receive assurance that recommendations made by the Internal Audit Service are monitored and implemented within the agreed timescales.

#### 4. **BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 A key function of an effective Internal Audit Service is to undertake individual audit assignments in accordance with the agreed risk-based audit plan for each year. The outcome of these assignments provides an opinion in respect of the overall control environment and, where necessary, recommendations are made to help improve the arrangements in place. Recommendations are categorised as High, Medium or Low. Table 1 shows the methodology that is applied when categorising recommendations:

**TABLE 1 - RECOMMENDATION CATEGORISATION**

<b>High Priority</b>	Action that is considered imperative to ensure that the organisation is not exposed to high risks.
<b>Medium Priority</b>	Action that is considered necessary to avoid exposure to significant risks.
<b>Low Priority</b>	Action that is considered desirable and should result in enhanced control.

- 4.2 Once the target date for implementation has been reached the relevant Officers are contacted and asked to provide feedback on the status of each agreed High and Medium priority recommendation. Members will note that Low priority recommendations are not tracked by the Internal Audit Service.
- 4.3 Table 2 provides a summary of the status of the recommendations reported by Internal Audit.

**TABLE 2 – RECOMMENDATION STATUS SUMMARY**

Number of Recommendations Made				Not Agreed	Implemented	Outstanding				Future Target Date
H	M	L	Total			H	M	L	Total	
2	67	28	97	0	64	0	7	0	7	26

- 4.4 Members will note that as of 28<sup>th</sup> October 2024, 7 recommendations have not been implemented within the agreed timescale. A breakdown is included at Appendix A and a verbal update will be provided at the Governance and Audit Committee meeting in respect of these recommendations.

#### 5. **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY**

- 5.1 There are no equality and diversity or socio-economic duty implications as a result of the recommendations set out in the report.

#### 6. **CONSULTATION**

6.1 There are no consultation implications as a result of the recommendations set out in the report.

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)**

7.1 There are no financial implications as a result of the recommendations set out in the report, but effective audit planning and monitoring are key contributors in ensuring that the Council's assets and interests are properly accounted for and safeguarded.

## **8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

8.1 The provision of an adequate and effective Internal Audit function is a legal requirement under the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2018 as amended from time to time.

## **9. WELSH LANGUAGE**

9.1 There are no Welsh language implications as a result of the recommendations set out in the report.

## **10. LINKS TO CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT THE COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PLAN PRIORITIES**

10.1 The work undertaken by the Internal Audit Service will help ensure that appropriate internal controls are in place to effectively manage risks and resources to support the delivery of the Council's Corporate Plan.

10.2 The Sustainable Development Principle, in particular Prevention, can be applied to the systematic reviews undertaken in order to provide assurance that risks to the achievement of objectives are being managed.

## **11. CONCLUSION**

11.1 The Governance and Audit Committee is responsible for overseeing the Council's overall risk management, governance and internal control environment. A key element of this responsibility is to receive assurance that recommendations made by the Internal Audit Service are monitored and implemented within agreed timescales.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

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## APPENDIX A – STATUS OF RECOMMENDATIONS BY INDIVIDUAL AUDIT ASSIGNMENT

AUDIT NAME	AUDIT YEAR	AUDIT OPINION	FINAL REPORT DATE	STATUS MONITORING					
				TOTAL IMPLEMENTED	OUTSTANDING - PAST THE IMPLEMENTATION DATE				FUTURE TARGET DATE
					HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	TOTAL	
<b>2024/25</b>									
YGGG Llantrisant	2024/25	Reasonable Assurance	13/06/2024	3	0	0	0	0	1
St Michael's RC Primary School	2024/25	Reasonable Assurance	06/06/2024	10	0	0	0	0	3
Cardinal Newman RC School	2024/25	Reasonable Assurance	15/07/2024	3	0	0	0	0	2
St John Baptist CIW High School	2024/25	Reasonable Assurance	08/07/2024	5	0	5	0	5	1
Infrastructure Asset Management - Tip & Culvert Safety Inspections & Recording	2024/25	Reasonable Assurance	04/09/2024	1	0	0	0	0	2
Insurance	2024/25	Reasonable Assurance	24/09/2024	0	0	0	0	0	4
CSC - PDG Consolidated Statement	2024/25	Substantial Assurance	08/10/2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
CSC - Pupil Development Grant PDG	2024/25	Substantial Assurance	18/06/2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
CSC - RCG Consolidated Statement	2024/25	Substantial Assurance	27/09/2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
CSC - Regional Consortia Grant RCG	2024/25	Substantial Assurance	18/06/2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
RCT Regional Consortia School Improvement Grant (RCSIG)	2024/25	Substantial Assurance	12/07/2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
RCT Pupil Development Grant PDG	2024/25	Substantial Assurance	07/08/2024	0	0	0	0	0	0
YGG Bronllwyn	2024/25	Reasonable Assurance	17/10/2024	8	0	0	0	0	2
<b>2023/24</b>									
YGG Llyn y Forwen	2023/24	Reasonable Assurance	19/02/2024	16	0	0	0	0	5
Adoption Support & Foster Carer Payments - Follow Up	2023/24	Reasonable Assurance	12/04/2024	2	0	1	0	1	0
Bank Reconciliation	2023/24	Reasonable Assurance	29/04/2024	5	0	0	0	0	1
Scheme of Delegation	2023/24	Substantial Assurance	30/04/2024	5	0	1	0	1	0
Education Safeguarding Arrangements	2023/24	Reasonable Assurance	07/05/2024	0	0	0	0	0	2
Energy Efficiency & Monitoring	2023/24	Reasonable Assurance	22/05/2024	1	0	0	0	0	2
<b>2022/23</b>									
Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) Checks	2023/24	Reasonable Assurance	16/08/2023	5	0	0	0	0	1
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>				<b>64</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>26</b>