

**BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL
AUDIT COMMITTEE**

16 April 2010

Report of: Strategic Director (Resources)

Title: Review of Implementation of Grant Thornton Recommendations

Ward: Citywide

Officer presenting report: Richard Powell, Chief Internal Auditor

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RECOMMENDATION

The Audit Committee note, and comment as appropriate, on management's progress with implementation of Grant Thornton's high priority recommendations.

Summary

This report is a summary of progress towards implementation of high priority recommendations made by Grant Thornton.

The significant issues in the report are:

- the progress being made against high priority recommendations

Policy

It is considered good practice to have a procedure for monitoring the Council's progress in implementing External Auditor recommendations. The Audit Committee agreed at its 25th September 2009 meeting to receive regular reports of progress against all Grant Thornton's high priority recommendations.

Consultation

Internal: Strategic Director (Resources) requested review. Responsible Officers contacted for progress.

External: None necessary

Background and Introduction

1. Internal Audit monitor implementation of the high priority recommendations made by Grant Thornton since they became the Council's External Auditors. Internal Audit resources are not currently sufficient to enable a full and independent follow up of recommendations ourselves. Therefore follow up will be by way of obtaining management responses only regarding the current position in respect of each area. This report is a retrospective review and summary of the progress made to date against all Grant Thornton high priority recommendations.

Since their appointment as our External Auditors, Grant Thornton have issued ten reports (excluding Use of Resources) containing forty-eight high priority recommendations. Responses were requested from management and the table below details progress made to date. An initial report of progress was made to the Audit Committee in January 2010 which is updated here. It has been agreed that in future Internal Audit will report to the Audit Committee on progress of recommendations twice a year.

All recommendations that are not yet fully implemented are progressing and will be reported on in detail in later reports if still not implemented.

Report	Report Date	No High Priority Recs	Implemented	In Progress	Not Implemented	Response not yet received
Capital Project Management	Feb 2008	3	3			
Scrutiny Arrangements	Jun 2008	6	5	1		
HR Strategy and Processes	Mar 2009	7	4*	3		
Risk Management	Sep 2008	9	8	1		
Tackling Health Inequalities	Sep 2008	6	6			
Performance Management within Mental Health Services	Feb 2009	3	2	1		
Governance Report	Sep 2008	4	3	1		
Data Quality	Dec 2008	0				
2008-09 Budget Setting Arrangements	Dec 2008	5	4	1		
Annual Audit and Inspection Letter	Mar 2009	5	2*	3		
Total so far		48	37	11		

* Some of these recommendations were part implemented and part in progress

2. Management responses will be monitored and obtained for high priority recommendations only.
3. Internal Audit will provide comments in the report where more information

about the area is known from other planned Internal Audit work undertaken.

4. Grant Thornton will provide Internal Audit with copies of all reports they issue and liaise with us should they complete their own follow up in order to avoid duplication of work.

Other Options Considered

None necessary

Risk Assessment

Monitoring of implementation of high risk recommendations is a valuable contribution to the Council's governance and risk management framework.

Equalities Impact Assessment

None required for this report.

Legal and Resource Implications

Legal - none sought.

Resources - none arising from this report.

Appendices: None

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers: None