

**BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL
AUDIT COMMITTEE****11th November 2011****Report of: Strategic Director (Corporate Services)****Title: Review of Implementation of Grant Thornton Recommendations****Ward: Citywide****Officer presenting report: Richard Powell, Chief Internal Auditor****Contact telephone number: 0117 92 22448****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. The last progress report was received by the Audit Committee at its 8th April 2011 meeting.

Consultation

Internal: Responsible Officers contacted for progress against Grant Thornton recommendations.

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.

Progress on implementation of high priority recommendations is detailed in the table below. The following reports have been excluded from the table:

- Reviews being followed up by the External Auditors in their Value For Money Follow-up of 2009-10 recommendations to be reported to the 20th January 2012 Audit Committee Meeting.
- Business Transformation Review September 2010 as this has been followed up by Grant Thornton in their 'Review of Change Agenda' reported to the Audit Committee 30th September 2011.
- Reports prior to 2009 where the recommendations have been judged by management to have been implemented
- Use of Resources 2008 as this has been superseded by the 2009 assessment
- ISA 260 for 2009-10 within the Annual Report to those charged with governance as this has been superseded by the 2010-11 ISA 260
- 2008-09 and 2009-10 Annual Audit and Inspection Letters as these reports do not contain actions plans
- 2009-10 Interim Audit Report as the report does not contain an action plan
- Assessment of Audit Committee effectiveness - as this is already being separately monitored by the Audit Committee
- WEP review - as progress was reported to the Audit Committee's 27th September 2010 meeting

Responses were requested from management and the table below details progress made to date. Reports of progress were made to the Audit Committee in January 2010, April 2010, April 2011 and are further updated here.

The recommendation that is still in progress is included in detail with the actions taken to date in Appendix A, as supplied by the responsible officer.

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 Internal Audit should they complete their own follow up in order

to avoid duplication of work.

Report	Report Date	No High Priority Recs	Implemented	In Progress	Not yet due	Not Implemented
Performance Management within Mental Health Services	Feb 2009	3	3			
HR Strategy and Processes	Mar 2009	7	6	1		
ISA 260 for 08-09 in Annual Gov Report	Sept 09	2	2			
Tackling Health Inequalities Follow Up	Sept 09	3	3			
2008-09 Grants Report	Jan 10	7	7			
Use of Resources Assessment Report 2009	Jan 10	5	5			
2009-10 Grants Report	Jan 11	3	2		1	
Bristol's Change Agenda	Sept 11	8			8	
Corporate Performance Reporting	Sept 11	5			5	
ISA 260 for 10-11 in Annual Report to those charged with governance	Sept 11	2			2	
Total updated		45	28	1	16	0

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:

Appendix A - Table of recommendation that is 'In Progress'

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers: None

'In Progress' Grant Thornton High Priority Recommendations

GT Ref.	Recommendation	Priority	Management Response	Officer Responsible	Due Date	Current Status of Implementation
	Review of HR Strategy and Processes					
	The HR function should demonstrate improvements made from the feedback of the customer monitoring forms and satisfactions surveys.	H	New customer monitoring and feedback will be introduced as part of the performance monitoring arrangements for the STSC.	Will Godfrey	October 2009	<p>In progress:</p> <p>The Service Delivery Plan for 2011/12 was prepared following extensive consultation with service users. Feedback to date indicates higher satisfaction with the strategic leadership of the HR function.</p> <p>Further work is required to demonstrate improvements made from the customer feedback.</p>