

ADAPTING TO THE FUTURE 2003 – 2004.

1. SUMMARY

The Accounts Commission - Audit Scotland issued a national report towards the end of August 2004 entitled, "Adapting to the future". As there were no implementation dates assigned to the report recommendations, Internal Audit drew up an action plan covering the report recommendations and asked the Community Services Department management to prepare a position paper so that, it could be determined where the Council was in terms of compliance with the recommendations outlined in the national report.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The contents of this report are noted and to be followed up by Internal Audit.

3. DETAILS

3.1 Internal Audit stated to the Audit Committee on the 3rd of December 2004 that it would report back to the Audit Committee regarding the review of the national reports recommendations by Community Services management. Community Services management on the 22nd of April 2005, confirmed to Internal Audit that a study had been carried out which identified that further feasibility studies would be required in order to address the national report recommendations.

3.2 The Action Plan attached in Appendix 1, lists the 21 report recommendations and the responses of management with proposed implementation dates. As at the 18th of May 2005, 2 recommendations are complete with a further 3 having been progressed through a meeting held on the 11th of May 2005. This has resulted in one of the 3 due to be complete by the end of May, with the other 2 to be complete by October 2005. There are a further 16 recommendations with implementation dates stretching from June to November 2005, for which management have reported ongoing progress.

3.3 Community Services management wanted the Audit Committee to know that in response to the Scottish Executive seeking transparent validation of genuine progress in joint working, the Joint Strategy Group has authorised a staged implementation of Joint Single Management. The first phase will be in the Bute and Cowal area and a Project Plan is currently being developed and supported by Bishops Consulting. The Joint Improvement Team of the Scottish Executive is also providing practical support to the Project. The Physical Disability Service re-design proposals (including Adapting to the Future) will be fully tested as part of the Bute and Cowal Project.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Progress with the implementation of the national reports recommendations, will continue to be monitored by Internal Audit.

5.	IMPLICATIONS	
5.1	Policy:	None
5.2	Financial:	None
5.3	Personnel:	None
5.4	Legal:	None
5.5	Equal Opportunities:	None

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