

RECENT EXTERNAL AUDIT ISSUED REPORTS 2004 – 2005.

1. SUMMARY

This report contains the executive summary and action plan for new reports issued by Audit Scotland since the last Audit Committee. Where Internal Audit has performed a review of the progress made by management in implementing report recommendations, this has been reported below. (See Appendix 1). These reports will be incorporated into the reporting system for the next Audit Committee.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

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

3. DETAILS

3.1 In August 2005, Audit Scotland issued a report entitled “Business Continuity Planning Review”. The audit covered, business continuity planning implementation and operation within the Council. The Action Plan, which accompanies the report, details 3 recommendations for action. The first recommendation has 3 progress dates with the main date being January 2006. Internal Audit can report that progress is being made with this recommendation. A report covering the Council response to a pandemic flu outbreak was approved by the Strategic Management Team (SMT) on the 30th of August 2005. Progress continues with the remaining actions within this recommendation.

3.2 The remaining 2 recommendations contained in the Action Plan have been assigned the status “Ongoing”. As at the 31st of October 2005, management have advised Internal Audit that implementation of these recommendations is progressing. The Executive Summary and Action Plan are given in Appendix 1.

3.3 In November 2005, Audit Scotland issued a report entitled “Financial Strategy”. The general findings of the audit were that the Council has sound arrangements in place in many areas for determining financial strategy although some key arrangements have yet to be developed. The Action Plan accompanying the report details 8 recommendations. Five recommendations have implementation dates of between January 2006 and March 2007. Three recommendations are to be in place for the 2007 – 08 budget cycle. The Executive Summary and Action Plan are given in Appendix 2.

3.4 At the end of November 2005, Audit Scotland issued a report entitled “Following the Public Pound”. The overall conclusion from the audit was that the Council demonstrated compliance with a number of aspects of the code of practice in relation to its dealings with arms length external organisations (ALEOs). The Action Plan accompanying the report lists 18 recommendations. In terms of priority assigned to report recommendations, 2 are considered high and 16 of medium priority.

3.5 The Council response to the report recommendations was that a working group would be set up to address the recommendations. One outcome from the group will be a completed Action Plan that lists responsibilities with implementation dates. In this knowledge Audit Scotland has finalised and issued their report. Audit Scotland will follow up progress as part of their 2005/06 audit. The Executive Summary and Action Plan are given in Appendix 3. Internal Audit will provide support to the working group in addressing the recommendations. Audit Scotland has indicated that in their national report on Scottish Authority compliance with the code, Argyll & Bute has been noted for displaying good practice in 2 categories.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Implementation of 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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