

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 in conjunction with Community Services management prepared an Action Plan with agreed implementation dates.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

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

3. DETAILS

3.1 As previously reported to the Audit Committee, the Action Plan compiled for this report lists 21 recommendations of which 9 have been addressed by management. The remaining 12 recommendations are presently being addressed through a feasibility study by an appointed consultant AGE Ltd. (See Appendix 1).

3.2 As at the 6th of February 2006, AGE Ltd has reported to Internal Audit that the feasibility project is now well underway. However, accessing data/information to inform the process has proved difficult and challenging. Age Ltd wanted it known that the staff within the Council have been very supportive of the project and were meeting the demands placed upon them for the production of data. With regard to the specific progress of the 12 recommendations an update is provided in Appendix 1. In addition AGE Ltd has provided further comment on recommendations currently being addressed by management.

3.3 It was reported to the last Audit Committee that AGE Ltd would issue a final report in January 2006. This now looks unlikely due to the problems outlined above. AGE Ltd has set deadlines for the provision of critical information so that a project briefing on findings and options can take place for lead officers in February 2006. It is anticipated that the final report will be available in March 2006.

4. CONCLUSIONS

Progress by AGE Ltd in addressing the feasibility study recommendations will be monitored by Internal Audit and reported to the Audit Committee.

5. IMPLICATIONS

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| 5.1 | Policy: | None |
| 5.2 | Financial: | None |
| 5.3 | Personnel: | None |
| 5.4 | Legal: | None |

5.5 Equal Opportunities: None

For further information please contact Ian Nisbet, Internal Audit Manager (01546 604216)

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Internal Audit Manager 6 February 2006

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