BEDFORDSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

Internal Audit Progress Report

Audit and Standards Committee

6 July 2018

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The matters raised in this report are only those which came to our attention during the course of our review and are not necessarily a comprehensive statement of all the weaknesses that exist or all improvements that might be made. Management actions for improvements should be assessed by you for their full impact before they are implemented. This report, or our work, should not be taken as a substitute for management's responsibilities for the application of sound commercial practices. We emphasise that the responsibility for a sound system of internal controls rests with management and our work should not be relied upon to identify all strengths and weaknesses that may exist. Neither should our work be relied upon to identify all circumstances of fraud and irregularity should there be any.

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1 PROGRESS UPDATE

The internal audit plan for 2018/19 was approved by the Audit & Standards Committee in March 2018. Below provides a summary update on progress against that plan and summarises the results of our work to date.

Audit Assignments completed since the last Audit & Standards Committee

In relation to our audit plan for 2017/18 we have finalised three further reports since the previous meeting.

Assignments	Date Planned	Opinion issued	Actions agreed		
			Н	M	L
2017/18					
Risk Management (5.17/18)	Final	Reasonable Assurance	0	3	7
Payroll - key controls and system implementation (6.17/18)	Final	Reasonable Assurance	0	2	1
Follow Up (7.17/18)	Final	Reasonable Progress	0	1	1
2018/19					
Governance	Fieldwork In progress				
Use of Risk Information	3 September 2018				
Key Financial Controls	19 November 2018				
Risk Management	14 January 2019				
Asset Management	11 February 2019				
Follow Up	4 March 2019				
Cyber Security	TBC				

2 OTHER MATTERS

2.1 Head of Internal Audit Opinion

The Audit and Standards Committee should note that the assurances given in our audit assignments are included within our Annual Assurance report. The Committee should note that any negative assurance opinions will need to be noted in the annual report and may result in a qualified or negative annual opinion.

We have not issued any negative opinions to date in relation to 2018/19 and therefore anticpate issuing a positive opinion at the year end (subject to the remaining audits).

2.2 Changes to audit plan

There have been no changes to the audit plan since the last Committee meeting.

2.3 Information and briefings

We have not issued any further client briefings since the last Committee, the next Emergency Services briefing will be issued in August 2018.

During 2017/18 we have undertaken a number of GDPR audits, where we have considered client preparation for the May 2018 changes. As part of our internal audit service we have undertaken a benchmarking exercise considering the findings from our GDPR audits between the period of August 2017 and January 2018.

The benchmarking provided to management was based on all of the internal audit reports we have issued to our clients during the audit year 2017/18.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

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