

East Herts Council

Performance, Audit and Governance Scrutiny Committee 12 March 2019

Shared Internal Audit Service – Progress Report

Recommendation

Members are recommended to:

- a) Note the Internal Audit Progress Report
- b) Approve amendments to the Audit Plan as at 22 February 2019
- c) Note the Status of Critical and High Priority Recommendations

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1. Introduction and Background

Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report details:
 - a) The progress made by the Shared Internal Audit Service (SIAS) in delivering the Council's 2018/19 Internal Audit Plan as at 22 February 2019.
 - b) The findings for the period to 22 February 2019.
 - c) The implementation status of previously agreed Internal Audit recommendations.
 - d) The proposed amendments required to the approved 2018/19 Internal Audit Plan.
 - e) An update on performance management information as at 22 February 2019.

Background

- 1.2 The 2018/19 Internal Audit Plan was approved by the Performance, Audit and Governance Scrutiny Committee on 13 March 2018. The Performance, Audit and Governance Scrutiny Committee receive periodic updates of progress with delivering the Internal Audit Plan.
- 1.3 The work of Internal Audit is required to be reported to a Member Body so that the Council has an opportunity to review and monitor an essential component of corporate governance and gain assurance that its internal audit provision is fulfilling its statutory obligations. It is considered good practice that progress reports also include proposed amendments to the agreed Internal Audit Plan.

2. Internal Audit Plan Update

Delivery of Internal Audit Plan and Key Audit Findings

- 2.1 As at 22 February 2019, 85% of the 2018/19 Internal Audit Plan days have been delivered (calculation excludes contingency days that have not been allocated).
- 2.2 Final reports for the following audits and projects have been issued or completed since the last Performance, Audit and Governance Scrutiny Committee on 22 January 2019:

Audit Title	Date of Issue	Assurance Level	Number of Recommendations
Houses in Multiple Occupation	Jan 2019	Good	One Medium
Mobile Device Management	Jan 2019	Satisfactory	Two Medium, One Low/Advisory

Business Rates (NDR)	Jan 2019	Good	None
GDPR – Post Implementation Review	Feb 2019	Satisfactory	One Medium

2.3 The table below summarises the overall position with regard to 2018/19 projects as at 22 February 2019. Appendix A provides a status update on each individual project within the 2018/19 Internal Audit Plan. Details of indicative start dates for the individual projects are also shown in Appendix C.

No of Audits at this Stage	% of Total Audits
16	50%
7	22%
6	19%
1	3%
0	0%
2	6%
	16 7 6 1 0

Total	32	100%

Critical and High Priority Recommendations

- 2.4 A final Internal Audit report is issued when agreed by management. This includes an agreement to implement recommendations that have been made. It is SIAS's responsibility to bring to the attention of Members the implementation status of critical and high priority recommendations; it is the responsibility of officers to implement the recommendations by the agreed date.
- 2.5 The current position in respect of existing outstanding critical and high priority recommendations is shown at Appendix B.

Internal Audit Plan Amendments

- 2.6 The following changes to the 2018/19 Internal Audit Plan have already been approved by this Committee.
 - a) Land Charges audit cancelled and days returned to contingency.
 - b) CCTV joint internal audit resourced from contingency.
- 2.7 Since the last progress report to this Committee, it has been agreed by Officers that the Compliance Monitoring Contract audit be cancelled and

the audit days are returned to contingency. The Committee is asked to approve this change.

Performance Management

- 2.8 Annual performance indicators and associated targets were approved by the SIAS Board in March 2018 and are reviewed annually.
- 2.9 The actual performance for East Herts Council against the targets that can be monitored in year is set out in the table below.

Performance Indicator	Annual Target	Profiled Target	Actual to 22 Feb 2019
1. Planned Days – percentage of actual billable days against planned chargeable days completed (excluding unused contingency)	95%	86% (295 / 345 days)	85% (292 / 345 days)
2. Planned Projects – percentage of actual completed projects to draft report stage against planned completed projects	95%	77% (23 / 30 projects to draft)	77% (23 / 30 projects to draft)
3. Client Satisfaction – percentage of client satisfaction questionnaires returned at 'satisfactory' level	100%	100%	100% (4 returned to date)
4. Number of Critical and High Priority Audit Recommendations Agreed	95%	95%	100% (3 High priority agreed) *

* This figure excludes the 9 high priority recommendations from the CCTV audit. While owned by the CCTV partnership as a whole, the recommendations from the CCTV audit are primarily recorded and reported on within the Audit Committee papers for Stevenage Borough Council as the lead authority for the audit. They have thus been excluded from the total number of recommendations above, but have been included for information at Appendix B.

APPENDIX A: PROGRESS AGAINST THE 2018/19 INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN

	LEVEL OF		RE	ECS		AUDIT	LEAD	BILLABLE	
	ASSURANCE	С	н	м	LA	PLAN DAYS	AUDITOR ASSIGNED	DAYS COMPLETED	STATUS/COMMENT
Key Financial Systems – 77 days									
Asset Management						10	Yes	10	Draft Report Issued
Council Tax	Good	0	0	0	0	6	Yes	6	Final Report Issued
Creditors						10	Yes	4	In Fieldwork
Debtors						10	Yes	10	Draft Report Issued
General Ledger						10	Yes	7	In Quality Review
Housing Benefits & Rent Allowances	Good	0	0	0	0	6	Yes	6	Final Report Issued
NDR	Good	0	0	0	0	6	Yes	6	Final Report Issued
Payroll						12	Yes	12	Draft Report Issued
Payroll Certificate	NA	0	0	0	0	1	Yes	1	Complete
Treasury Management						6	Yes	6	Draft Report Issued
Operational Audits – 124 days									
Development Management	Satisfactory	0	0	1	1	12	Yes	12	Final Report Issued
S106 Agreements (spend arrangements)	Limited	0	3	2	0	10	Yes	10	Final Report Issued
Business Grants Scheme	Limited	0	0	4	1	8	Yes	8	Final Report Issued
Performance Mgmt. / Data Quality	Satisfactory	0	0	1	1	10	Yes	10	Final Report Issued
Land Charges						1	NA	1	Cancelled
Freedom of Information	Satisfactory	0	0	3	1	8	Yes	8	Final Report Issued
GDPR – PIR	Satisfactory	0	0	1	0	10	Yes	10	Final Report Issued
Homelessness Reduction Act / Temporary Accommodation						12	Yes	10	In Quality Review
Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs)	Good	0	0	1	0	10	Yes	10	Final Report Issued
Herts Home Improvement Agency						2	Yes	2	Draft Report Issued
Digital East Herts						12	Yes	12	Draft Report Issued

	LEVEL OF		R	ECS			LEAD	BILLABLE	
AUDITABLE AREA	ASSURANCE	С	н	м	LA DAYS ASSIGNED		AUDITOR ASSIGNED	DAYS COMPLETED	STATUS/COMMENT
Agency Staffing	Satisfactory	0	0	1	1	12	Yes	12	Final Report Issued
Commercialisation / Income Generation						12	Yes	0.5	In Planning
DFG Capital Grant Certification	NA	0	0	0	0	1	Yes	1	Complete
CCTV – joint internal audit	Limited	0	9*	0	0	2	Yes	2	Final Report Issued
Garden Town - Project Assurance	NA	0	0	0	0	2	Yes	1.5	Complete
Procurement – 29 days									
Waste Contract – client services, trade waste						15	Yes	6.5	In Fieldwork
Compliance Monitoring Contract						0	NA	0.5	Cancelled
Contract Management	Limited	0	0	4	1	12	Yes	12	Final Report Issued
IT Audits – 30 days									
Cyber Security						6	Yes	2	In Fieldwork
Incident Management						6	Yes	2	In Fieldwork
Mobile Device Management and BYOD	Satisfactory	0	0	2	1	6	Yes	6	Final Report Issued
TSS Improvement Plan - Governance						12	Yes	12	Draft Report Issued
Shared Learning – 8 days					-				
Shared Learning Newsletters / Summary Themed Reports / Joint Reviews						8	N/A	4.5	In Progress
Risk Management – 0 days									
No audits								0	
Anti-Fraud – 3 days									
Anti-Fraud – Controls Review						3	N/A	0	Through Year
Strategic Support – 51 days									

	LEVEL OF						LEAD AUDITOR	BILLABLE	
	ASSURANCE	С	н	м	LA	PLAN DAYS	AUDITOR	DAYS COMPLETED	STATUS/COMMENT
2019/20 Audit Planning						10	N/A	9.5	In Progress
Audit Committee						12	N/A	11	Through Year
Client Meetings						10	N/A	8	Through Year
Liaison with External Audit						1	N/A	0.5	Through Year
Head of Internal Audit Opinion 2017/18						4	N/A	4	Complete
Plan Monitoring						9	N/A	7.5	Through Year
Ad-hoc Advice						2	N/A	1	Through Year
SIAS Development						5	N/A	5	Through Year
Contingency – 15 days									
Contingency						15	N/A	0	Not yet allocated
Follow Ups – 3 days									
Follow up of priority recommendations						3	N/A	2	Through Year
2017/18 Projects requiring completion – 20 days									
Various						20	Yes	20	Complete
EHC TOTAL		0	3	20	7	360		292	

* While owned by the CCTV partnership as a whole, the recommendations from the CCTV audit are primarily recorded and reported on within the Audit Committee papers for Stevenage Borough Council as the lead authority for the audit. They have thus been excluded from the total number of recommendations, but have been included for information at Appendix B.

APPENDIX B: IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF HIGH PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

No.	Report Title / Date of Issue	Recommendation	Management Response	Responsible Officer	Original Target Date	Management Comments	SIAS Comment (Feb 2019)
1.	CCTV - joint review led by Stevenage Borough Council (2018/19) - These recommendations and their implementation status are overseen and monitored by Stevenage Borough Council as the lead authority, but are included here for Member information.	We recommend that the governance framework for the overall CCTV Partnership is reviewed and confirmed as being fit for purpose, or changed as necessary, and is clearly understood by all parties, including the respective roles and responsibilities of the relevant Members and Officers.	We will draft a governance framework for the overall CCTV arrangements to include: - Governance for Hertfordshire CCTV Partnership - Governance for Hertfordshire CCTV Partnership Ltd. - Governance lines between the Partnership and the Company - Member roles and responsibilities -Officer roles and responsibilities These will be consulted on and agreed by the CCTV Joint	CCTV Joint Executive and Company Board of Directors.	1 December 2018. Revised to 31 May 2019.	February 2019 Recommended to the CCTV Joint Executive on 22 January 2019 that a detailed options paper will be put the CCTV Executive Group at its meeting on 10 April 2019.	Not yet implemented – continue to monitor.

No.	Report Title / Date of Issue	Recommendation	Management Response	Responsible Officer	Original Target Date	Management Comments	SIAS Comment (Feb 2019)
			Executive and the Company Board of Directors.				
2.	CCTV - joint review (2018/19) <i>As above.</i>	We recommend that an appropriate new Partnership Agreement between the current four CCTV Partner Authorities is drawn up and executed. It should clearly include the specific roles and responsibilities of the Partner Authorities. It should also clearly state the relationship the Partner Authorities have with Hertfordshire CCTV Partnership Ltd. and the function of that company in respect of the overall CCTV Partnership.	We will prepare an updated CCTV Partnership Agreement drafted through the CCTV Officer Management Board to be signed by all four Partner Authorities.	CCTV Officer Management Board.	31 March 2019.	February 2019 On track.	Not yet implemented – continue to monitor.
3.	CCTV - joint review (2018/19) <i>As above.</i>	We recommend that the current Shareholders' Agreement for the Company is reviewed to ascertain if it remains fit for purpose	The Company Directors' will consider this recommendation through their Shareholder Representatives	Company Board of Directors.	31 March 2019.	<u>February 2019</u> On track.	Not yet implemented – continue to monitor.

No.	Report Title / Date of Issue	Recommendation	Management Response	Responsible Officer	Original Target Date	Management Comments	SIAS Comment (Feb 2019)
		and, if so, that the terms are fully complied with.	in light of future considerations relating to the future of Hertfordshire CCTV Partnership Ltd.				
4.	CCTV - joint review (2018/19) <i>As above.</i>	We recommend that appropriate revised / new Terms of Reference for the CCTV Joint Executive and the CCTV Officer Management Board are drawn up and formally agreed.	Terms of Reference will be updated for the CCTV Joint Executive and a Terms of Reference will be created for the CCTV Officer Management Board.	CCTV Joint Executive and CCTV Officer Management Board.	31 March 2019.	<u>February 2019</u> On track.	Not yet implemented – continue to monitor.
5.	CCTV - joint review (2018/19) <i>As above.</i>	We recommend that, once agreed, the revised/new Terms of Reference for the CCTV Joint Executive and the CCTV Officer Management Board are revised / added in the Constitutions for each of the four Partner Authorities, together with the	New Terms of Reference will be submitted for formal incorporation into constitutional arrangements for the four Partner Authorities.	Each of the four Partner Authorities.	31 July 2019.	<u>February 2019</u> On track.	Not yet implemented – continue to monitor.

No.	Report Title / Date of Issue	Recommendation	Management Response	Responsible Officer	Original Target Date	Management Comments	SIAS Comment (Feb 2019)
		updated Member/Officer representation for both groups.					
6.	CCTV - joint review (2018/19) <i>As above.</i>	We recommend that a new five year Business Plan for the overall CCTV Partnership is drawn up and agreed. As a minimum, the plan should be monitored on a monthly basis in terms of achievements against projections and it should be the subject of a full review and refresh annually to cover the next five years ahead on a rolling basis. Besides financial projections, it should include non- financial aims and targets that should be monitored, reviewed and refreshed on the same basis.	We will develop a new five year rolling Business Plan (with monthly monitoring and full annual reviews) for the overall Hertfordshire CCTV Partnership based on decisions about the future direction of Hertfordshire CCTV Partnership Ltd.	CCTV Joint Executive and Company Board of Directors.	31 July 2019.	February 2019 On track.	Not yet implemented – continue to monitor.
7.	CCTV - joint review	We recommend that the role and	The role of the SBC Group	CCTV Officer Management	31 July 2019.	February 2019. The partners have	Implemented.

No.	Report Title / Date of Issue	Recommendation	Management Response	Responsible Officer	Original Target Date	Management Comments	SIAS Comment (Feb 2019)
	(2018/19) As above.	responsibilities of the SBC Group Accountant in respect of the overall CCTV Partnership are reviewed, evaluated and formerly confirmed. Consideration should be given to increased use of the external Accountants with regard to the accounting requirements of Hertfordshire CCTV Partnership Ltd.	Accountant in relation to the overall Partnership will be clarified in the revised Partnership Agreement. The Company Directors will consider the accountancy needs of the Company and source appropriately.	Board, Company Board of Directors and SBC Assistant Director, Finance & Estates.		agreed the role of the Stevenage BC accountant in relation to the CCTV Partnership and the company has agreed to source its accountancy support separately from this.	
8.	CCTV - joint review (2018/19) <i>As above.</i>	We recommend that all reporting arrangements for the Partner Authorities are formally reassessed, agreed and documented to ensure there is complete clarity and transparency of expectations and understanding across all interested parties	Authority reporting arrangements to be included as part of a revised Partnership Agreement, Shareholder Agreement and Terms of Reference as necessary.	CCTV Joint Executive, CCTV Officer Management Board and Company Board of Directors as appropriate.	31 July 2019.	<u>February 2019</u> On track.	Not yet implemented – continue to monitor.

No.	Report Title / Date of Issue	Recommendation	Management Response	Responsible Officer	Original Target Date	Management Comments	SIAS Comment (Feb 2019)
		regarding the need, responsibility, frequency, timing, content, format and distribution of each report required.					
9.	CCTV - joint review (2018/19) <i>As above.</i>	We recommend that there is a review of how charges are being calculated and billed to the Partner Authorities, clarification of who is responsible for this and agreement of the timing.	A schedule of charges to be prepared for the Partnership. The schedule will identify recharges applied to the Partnership, including; staffing, overheads, IT, etc. The schedule will also include recharges applied to Hertfordshire CCTV Partnership Ltd. A quarterly finance report to be prepared for the CCTV Officer Management Board, to include	SBC Assistant Director, Finance & Estates.	1 November 2018.	<u>February 2019</u> Stevenage BC has drawn up a recharge schedule relating to the costs attributed to the Partnership; this has been shared with partner authorities. In addition, quarterly in- year financial forecasts are now being produced by Stevenage BC for the Partnership and shared with the partner authorities.	Implemented.

No.	Report Title / Date of Issue	Recommendation	Management Response	Responsible Officer	Original Target Date	Management Comments	SIAS Comment (Feb 2019)
			year-end financial projections for the Partnership.				
10.	Cyber Security (2017/18)	The Council must define its position regarding its ability to identify and manage devices that are connecting to its IT network. A solution must be able to manage devices that have physically connected to the Councils' IT networks. Devices that have connected to the network should be reviewed and, where they are found to have not been authorised, they should be removed. The solution should include the use of personal devices to connect to the IT network. Furthermore, management should	This will be resolved with the correct solution not only for devices but also for ports on all devices that need to be restricted.	Strategic ICT Partnership Manager.	31 March 2019.	February 2019 On track.	Not yet implemented – continue to monitor.

No.	Report Title / Date of Issue	Recommendation	Management Response	Responsible Officer	Original Target Date	Management Comments	SIAS Comment (Feb 2019)
		put arrangements in place to monitor network access on a regular basis.					
11.	Cyber Security (2017/18)	Management should perform a full review of the Councils' perimeter firewall rules and, where necessary, remove inactive or unnecessary rules unless explicitly required. The 'Any' rules should be replaced with port object groups that contain an explicit set of ports as required for the rule. Management should also ensure that all users that have access and can make changes to any of the Councils' external firewall rules have individual accounts and should put arrangements in place for monitoring all	The majority of the council's firewalls need replacing and part of that work will require the correct configuration and management. ICT Partnership Manager has been tasked to restructure the ICT department and as part of that to have dedicated security and network staff to resolve and maintain control of these areas.	Strategic ICT Partnership Manager.	31 March 2019.	February 2019 On track.	Not yet implemented – continue to monitor.

No.	Report Title / Date of Issue	Recommendation	Management Response	Responsible Officer	Original Target Date	Management Comments	SIAS Comment (Feb 2019)
		configuration changes. Furthermore, management should establish a record of how all firewalls, both internal and external, have been configured and should review the rules for appropriateness on a routine basis.					
12.	S106 Spend Arrangements (2018/19)	Record keeping of S106 contributions, the spend arrangements and associated timeframes be reviewed to confirm fitness for purpose. An effective master record is adopted for monitoring and reporting purposes.	There currently exist a number of records relating to different areas of Section 106. These include our planning system – Uniform, our finance system – Advanced and a further Excel based database. It is recognised that there exists some gaps in these and a full audit of contained data has commenced and	Deputy Chief Executive Officer.	April 2019.	<u>February 2019</u> On track.	Not yet implemented – continue to monitor.

No.	Report Title / Date of Issue	Recommendation	Management Response	Responsible Officer	Original Target Date	Management Comments	SIAS Comment (Feb 2019)
			a single harmonised database will be established to provide monitoring triggers, fund allocation and reporting.				
13.	S106 Spend Arrangements (2018/19)	The Council establish a sound legal position in respect of any time expired contributions. Contributions due to expire in the near future are subject to urgent consideration and remedial action where required.	All mentioned funding had already been highlighted internally and work on the pertinent contributions is ongoing to ensure application. Before any final allocation any project would be scrutinised by our legal team to ensure complicity with all relevant contractual requirements and stipulations. A	Deputy Chief Executive Officer.	February 2019.	February 2019 On track.	Not yet implemented – continue to monitor.

No.	Report Title / Date of Issue	Recommendation	Management Response	Responsible Officer	Original Target Date	Management Comments	SIAS Comment (Feb 2019)
			S106 Officer group has also been established to oversee allocation.				

APPENDIX C: INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN ITEMS – INDICATIVE START DATES AGREED WITH MANAGEMENT

Apr	Мау	Jun	July	Aug	Sept
Payroll Annual Pension Certificate (Complete)	Business Grants Scheme (Final Report Issued)	Freedom of Information (Final Report Issued)	GDPR – PIR (Final Report Issued)	S106 (Final Report Issued)	Home Improvement Agency (Draft report Issued)
			Land Charges (Cancelled)	HMOs (Final Report Issued)	Development Mgmt. (Final Report Issued)
	Mobile Device Mgmt. and Bring Your Own Device (Final Report Issued)	Performance Mgmt. / Data Quality (Final Report Issued)			Digital East Herts (Draft Report Issued)
	CCTV – joint audit (Final Report Issued)				

Oct	Nov	Dec		Feb	Mar
Council Tax (Final Report Issued)	NDR (Final Report Issued)	Debtors (Draft Report Issued)	Creditors (In Fieldwork)	HRA & Temporary Accommodation (In QR)	
Housing Benefits (Final Report Issued)	Payroll (Draft Report Issued)	Asset Mgmt. (Draft Report Issued)	Waste Contract (In Fieldwork)	TSS Improvement Plan – Cyber Security (In Fieldwork)	
DFG Capital Grant Certification (Complete)	Compliance Monitoring Contract – joint audit (Cancelled)	Main Accounting (In QR)	TSS Improvement Plan - Incident Mgmt. (In Fieldwork)	Commercial / Income Generation (In Planning)	
	TSS Improvement Plan – Governance (b/f from Jan) (Draft Report Issued)		Treasury Mgmt. (Draft Report Issued)		

APPENDIX D: ASSURANCE DEFINITIONS/PRIORITY LEVELS

Assurance Level	Definition			
Good	The design and operation of the internal control framework is effective, thereby ensuring that the key risks in scope are being well managed and core objectives will likely be achieved. There are minor reportable audit findings.			
SatisfactoryThe internal control framework is largely working well in managing the key risks in scope, with some audit findings in the current arrangements.				
Limited	The system of internal control is only partially effective, with important audit findings in key areas. Improvement in the design and/or operation of the control environment is necessary to gain assurance risks are being managed to an acceptable level, and core objectives will be achieved.			
No	The system of internal control has serious gaps, and controls are not effective in managing the key risks in scope. It is highly unlikely that core objectives will be met without urgent management intervention.			

Priori	Priority Level		Definition			
Corporate	Critical		dit findings which, in the present state, represent a serious risk to the organisation as a whole, i.e. reputation, ancial resources and / or compliance with regulations. Management action to implement the appropriate ntrols is required immediately.			
	High		Audit findings indicate a serious weakness or breakdown in control environment, which, if untreated by management intervention, is highly likely to put achievement of core service objectives at risk. Remedial action is required urgently.			
Service	Medium		Audit findings which, if not treated by appropriate management action, are likely to put achievement of some of the core service objectives at risk. Remedial action is required in a timely manner.			
	Low / Advisory		Audit findings indicate opportunities to implement good or best practice, which, if adopted, will enhance the control environment. The appropriate solution should be implemented as soon as is practically possible.			