

Warwickshire Joint Audit and Standards Committee Report Summary

Meeting Date: 15th March 2023

Subject: Internal Audit Update Report

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Purpose of the report:

This report summarises progress towards completion of the agreed Internal Audit plan 2022-23 and provides an update on the implementation of agreed recommendations.

Recommendation:

The Committee is requested to note the report.

Background:

Paragraphs 13-20 of the JASC Terms of Reference, set out the Committee's responsibilities in relation to Internal Audit. In particular this includes consideration of the progress of internal audit activity against the audit plan and the level of assurance it can give over corporate governance arrangements.

Executive summary:

Since the November 2022 update, work has continued, largely to plan, delivering the agreed audit plan 2022/23. Two further 2022/23 audits have been concluded with "Moderate" and "Substantial" opinions.

Analysis of the actions arising from Internal Audit work shows a generally positive position. The updates show that progress is being made on addressing most actions, although for a small number no update has been provided.

Internal Audit Update Report March 2023

Report by the Head of Internal Audit

Introduction

1. This report summarises the audit work progress since the November 2022 update report. The key outcome of each audit is an overall opinion on the level of assurance provided by the controls within the area audited. Audits are given one of four levels depending on the strength of controls and the operation of those controls. The four categories ranging from the lowest to highest are Limited, Moderate, Substantial and Full. The opinion reflects both the design of the control environment and the operation of controls.

Work Progress

2022-23 Audits

Appendix B shows progress against the 2022-23 Audit Plan. Seven of the ten planned audits have been finalised and fieldwork is advancing well for the three others. The audits completed since the last update are:

- VFM Practice review (Substantial)
- Learning, development, and training (Moderate)

Progress against the 2022-23 audit plan remains on track, and we are in a good position for delivery of the plan within the year.

Progress with Agreed Actions

2. Responsibility for implementing agreed recommendations rests with the Chief Executive and Chief Constable who have implemented monitoring arrangements to establish progress on implementing audit recommendations. Analysis and Service Improvement (ASI) regularly ask managers for a status update and provide information for inclusion in this report, along with updates from the OPCC.
3. Appendix C summarises the results of the latest monitoring exercise for the Force and PCC. The table shows all those audits that have recommendations which are still to be implemented. Based upon the target date agreed with management there are 10 recommendations overdue. There is one recommendation which is more than 6 months overdue relating to Fleet Management; work is ongoing to address this action.

Appendix A: Summary of audits completed since previous report.

Audit	Key findings	Opinion on level of assurance provided by controls	Number of recommendations		
			Fundamental	Significant	Merits Attention
VFM Practice review (Force)	<p>The majority of projects within the Empower Tech stream are in their infancy and therefore, reliance has been placed on current observed practices. The overarching business case for development of transactional services was viewed as being comprehensive detailing five key areas strategic, economic, commercial financial and management. Each focusing on a roadmap, based on phased implementation and aligned resources, under an overarching umbrella of governance and reporting arrangements. Current projects under the Empower Tech stream are well managed and display some very good project management techniques.</p> <p>We identified from our engagement with senior project leads they are well informed and up to date with the current status of the individual projects.</p> <p>There is a need to embed the sound practices which have been put in place to ensure the realisation of benefits and ensure lessons learned are assimilated into future projects.</p>	Substantial	0	0	2

Audit	Key findings	Opinion on level of assurance provided by controls	Number of recommendations		
			Fundamental	Significant	Merits Attention
Learning, development, and training	<p>Delivering a comprehensive program of LD&T is strategically important for local and operational needs, and to enable Warwickshire Police to fulfil statutory requirements. Delivering a comprehensive program of LD&T is strategically important for local and operational needs, and to enable Warwickshire Police to fulfil statutory requirements. statutory requirements.</p> <p>The National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) and Police and Association of Crime Commissioners (APCC) set out their vision for the future of policing in their joint Policing Vision 2025. A destination map was developed, identifying 17 'essential delivery criteria' to measure progress against. Progress against the criteria has not been reported on since 2019.</p> <p>His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) report (2021/22) identified that staff are not receiving the continuous development needed. Four delivery options have been proposed in the L&D business plan, but a decision on the most appropriate option has yet to be made.</p>	Moderate	0	2	2

Appendix B: Status of Internal Audit Workplan 2022/23 as at 24/02/2023

Original Plan Topic	Original Planned days	Actual Days to 24/02/2023	Current Status	Assurance level	Notes
OPCC AUDITS					
GDPR/ Information governance	12	8	In progress		
Publication compliance review	15	15	Completed	Substantial	
Ministry of Justice - independent sign off of return	2	2.5	Completed	N/A	
FORCE AUDITS					
Key financial systems	22	13	In progress		
VFM practice review	15	15	Completed	Substantial	
ICT Cyber security	15	0.5	In progress		
Performance management	15	15	Completed	Full	
Learning, development and training	20	20	Completed	Moderate	
Firearms Licensing	15	16	Completed	Substantial	
Control of firearms and tasers	15	15	Completed	Substantial	
Management, committee reporting etc.	24	20	Ongoing		
TOTAL	170	140			

Appendix C: Audits with recommendations outstanding

	Number of Recommendations								
Audit	Made	Risk Accepted	Redundant	Implemented	Not yet due to be implemented	Overdue (Months)			Response Rec'd Y/N
						0 to 3	3 to 6	Over 6	
FORCE									
Police Fleet (2018)	9			8				1M	Y
Budget Management	6			6					Y
Treasury Management	4			4					Y
Payroll & Pensions	6			5	1				Y
Estates	6			4		2(M)			Y
Business Continuity	1			1					Y
Information Governance	9				5	(4M)			N
Key Financial Systems	9			8	1				Y
Learning, development and training	4				4(2M)				
	54	0	0	36	11	6	0	1	
PCC Office									
Publication Compliance	6			3	1		2		Y
GDPR	1					1			Y
MOJ Return	1			1					Y
	8			4	1	1	2		