

Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee

Date	14 January 2019
Report title	Health and Safety Internal Audit Update
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Report has been considered by	Not Applicable

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee is recommended to:

- (1) Note the update on progress made against recommendations identified during the Internal Audit of Health and Safety Arrangements conducted by City of Wolverhampton Council Audit Services.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Committee with an update on progress against recommendations identified within the Internal Audit Report in relation to Health and Safety Arrangements for the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) issued on 8 October 2018.

2. Background

- 2.1 An audit of the Health and Safety Arrangements in operation for the WMCA has been undertaken by City of Wolverhampton Council Audit Services as part of the approved internal audit plan for 2018-2019.
- 2.2 The audit sought assurance that a robust health and safety management system is in operation for the WMCA to effectively manage health and safety risks.
- 2.3 The audit identified that suitable operational health and safety management arrangements were evident, supported by regular reporting and an effective management system.
- 2.4 It was also noted that revised governance and reporting arrangements were being consulted upon prior to approval with supporting mechanisms being developed by the Health and Safety Team in the meantime.
- 2.5 Recommendations were made to further support and build upon the current and proposed arrangements going forward, as well as develop greater visibility across the WMCA regarding the role of the Health and Safety Team as an organisational wide function.
- 2.6 These recommendations consisted of two amber issues and five green issues where improvements could be made.
- 2.7 Further to the agreed actions within the audit report, the Director of Integrated Network Services and Health and Safety Manager have advised that two additional actions will also be taken in relation to (i) governance arrangements for West Midlands Fire Service and (ii) stress and long-term sickness absence.
- 2.8 An action log detailing the issues arising, recommendations, current progress and action status is contained within Appendix 1 attached to this report.
- 2.9 It is acknowledged that the original target completion dates for many of the actions was overly ambitious given the wider challenges currently faced by the organisation and as such revised target dates have been provided where applicable.

3. Wider WMCA Implications

- 3.1 Failure to implement the recommendations may result in threats to delivery of policy due to the reduced effectiveness of management structures and arrangements, lack of effective planning and a structured approach to risk management, lack of clear organisational direction, and a reduced ability to respond to lessons learnt and implement any identified enhancements.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from this report, however as the remit and responsibilities of the WMCA evolve, additional resources and budgetary allocation may be required to ensure effective delivery of the aims and objective set out within the Health and Safety Policy and associated Strategy.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 Although there are no current legal implications, cognisance should be given to all applicable Health and Safety legislation that places duties upon the organisation.

6. Other Implications

- 6.1 There are no other implications arising from this report.

7. Other Implications

- 7.1 There are no other implications arising from this report.

8. Schedule of background papers

- 8.1 Final Internal Audit Report Health and Safety Arrangements 2018-2019
(8 October 2018) – Delivered by City of Wolverhampton Council Audit Services

9. Appendices

Appendix 1 Health and Safety Internal Audit Action Log