

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO AUDIT COMMITTEE

5th March 2008

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

AUDIT STRATEGY

1. Purpose of Report.

To update members on the Authority's Internal Audit Planning Strategy.

2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan / Other Corporate Priority.

Internal Audit's work impacts on all of the Corporate Improvement Plan/other corporate priorities.

3. Background.

3.1. Members will recall a report to this Committee in March 2007 where it was noted that the Accounts and Audit Regulations (Wales) 2005 require that the Council maintain '... an adequate and effective system of internal audit ... in accordance with proper internal audit practices ...' Guidance issued on proper internal audit practices referred to the Code of Practice in Local Government in the United Kingdom issued by CIPFA.

3.2. The CIPFA Code of Practice 2006 requires annual audit plans based on objectives and risks identified by the Authority.

4. Current situation / proposal

4.1. Audit Strategic Planning

To enable Internal Audit's annual plan to best respond to Council's objectives and identified risks a decision was made to change the audit plan year from the traditional financial year (ending March) to a year ending June.

This allows me to consider the Council's risk assessments identified through the Joint Risk Assessment (JRA) linked to the Corporate Improvement Plan (CIP) and individual business plans across the Authority in addition to my professional judgment on inherent risks to the Authority.

In order to update members of Internal Audit's work during the current year I have produced a separate report on the status of our activities as at 12th February 2008. (See Appendix A)

4.2. Planning process for 2008/09 plan

To review the Council's Corporate Improvement Plans for 2007/08 and 2008/09 along with the related Joint Risk Assessments where the highest risks to the Council achieving its objectives are identified.

Reference will be made to other risk assessments carried out by management within the Authority. An example of this is the annual business plans produced by each service.

The plan will take account of the plans of our external auditors (KPMG), WAO inspectors and possibly others (e.g. SSIW, Estyn) and also any concerns which may be expressed by Directors and/or Internal Audit (e.g. as a result of organisation change, previous audits, Audit Committee etc.).

The plan will be discussed with Directors and Heads of Service in the new structure in advance of the July date.

It is intended to present the annual plan to this Committee in September.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules.

5.1. None

6. Legal Implications.

6.1. There are no legal implications.

7. Financial Implications.

7.1. None

8. Recommendation.

8.1. That Members note the report

Gareth Moss
Director of Resources
22 February 2008

Contact Officers: Kay Lucas
Computer Auditor

Gerry Doak
Group Auditor

Telephone: (01656) 754901

E-mail: Kay.Lucas@bridgend.gov.uk
Gerry.Doak@bridgend.gov.uk

Postal Address

Bridgend County Borough Council
Brackla House
Brackla Street
Bridgend
CF31 1BZ

Background documents

None