

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

26th AUGUST 2009

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, WELLBEING

A REPORT ON PROGRESS IN RELATION TO ISSUES IDENTIFIED WITHIN INTERNAL AUDIT MANAGEMENT ACTION PLANS FOR SPORT AND RECREATION FACILITIES

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide an update on progress against internal audit action plans at sport and recreation facilities, as requested at the meeting of the audit committee on 19th November 2008.

2.0 CONNECTION TO CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITY

- 2.1 This report links to the corporate priorities:
- Caring for our Future
 - Children Today, Adults Tomorrow

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In April 2008 a series of internal audit reports concluded that there was adequate assurance of control at four sport and recreation facilities and inadequate assurance of control at three facilities.
- 3.2 In May 2009 Bridgend Recreation Centre received a report identifying that adequate assurance of control was in place.
- 3.3 In June 2009 Maesteg Swimming Pool received a report identifying that adequate assurance of control had been achieved.
- 3.4 In June 2009 Pencoed Swimming Pool received a report identifying that adequate assurance of control was in place.
- 3.5 In addition, in July 2009 the leisure management computer system was evaluated and given adequate assurance.

4.0 CURRENT SITUATION

Previous Issues Arising

- 4.1 At the committee meeting of November 2008 a number of specific items were raised for future update:-

- 4.2 The backlog of Criminal Records Bureau disclosure checks have now been addressed robustly in partnership with the Human Resources Department. A register of personnel is now maintained identifying dates for renewal. It should be noted that the corporate funding of the costs relating to disclosure has meant that there has been no detriment to service delivery or budget.
- 4.3 The sport and physical activity service has developed a business planning process that effectively links to the new Wellbeing Directorate Plan and key corporate priorities.
- 4.4 The operation of vending services has now been outsourced and the service offers healthy living and fair trade options for customers.
- 4.5 The loss making cafeteria at Bridgend Recreation Centre was closed at the end of April 2009 with displaced staff trained and deployed into other vacant posts
- 4.6 The bar service at Bridgend Recreation Centre continues to be operated internally at present although children's parties and function catering have been externalized.
- 4.7 The sport and recreation service has produced an updated systems manual which has been presented to internal audit for comment and improvement.

Future Action

- 4.8 There has been a pro-active approach to developing and sustaining improvement within sport and recreation facilities supported by internal audit. Specific actions are as follows:
- 4.9 The updated operating systems have been reviewed and recommendations made for change.
- 4.10 There has been a recognition of the limited management capacity within the service by internal audit. However a series of baseline standards have been created which have been provided to facility managers for observations. These will help significantly in measuring and monitoring operational performance.
- 4.11 A joint work plan has been created and agreed with internal audit to embed the targeted improvements into operational management and to support management development and training and to review business controls.
- 4.12 There will also be an emphasis of the review of support services such as ICT, HR, building maintenance and procurement in supporting the provision of excellent customer services within sport and recreation facilities.

Conclusion

- 4.13 From the foregoing information it can be seen that there has been significant progress, with adequate assurance of control being achieved in all areas of service that have been evaluated by internal audit.

4.14 Previous requests to develop a more supportive way of working with internal audit and a partnership approach to driving improvement have been addressed within the annual work plan.

5.0 EFFECT UPON POLICY FRAMEWORK & PROCEDURE RULES

5.1 There is no impact on the policy framework and procedure rules.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no legal implications.

7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The actions identified within the annual work plan referred to in this report will significantly strengthen operational and financial control within the relevant service area. The proposed actions are to be achieved within existing resources.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That the progress made be noted by the Audit Committee.

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Background documents

None