

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO AUDIT COMMITTEE

03 March 2011

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE PERFORMANCE

COMPLETED AUDITS

1. Purpose of Report .

1.1 To summarise for Members the findings of the audits recently completed by the Internal Audit Division.

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

2.1 Internal Audit's work impacts on the Corporate Improvement Plan and other corporate priorities

3. Background.

3.1 Internal Audit conducts reviews according to an annual audit plan and reports findings to Audit Committee.

4. Current situation / proposal.

4.1 Recently completed audits are summarised in the following table:

Report	System Overview	Work Finalised	Audit Days	Key Messages	Audit Opinion	Key Action Plan Dates
Insurance Services	Insurance Services Section arranges insurance cover for the Council and handles all insurance claims. Premiums paid in 2010/11 were £649k. In addition a self insurance fund is maintained (currently £4.9m)	February 2011	13	A recent tender realised savings of £109k. Recharges to directorates are based on robust calculations. The section performs well against legal timescales and has good rates of repudiation of claims.	Substantial Assurance	N/A
Housing Benefits	The service is audited annually as it is a significant financial system. There are major changes to be managed in 2011 and 2013.	February 2011	14	The service continues to be well controlled. Organisational changes, retirements and other absences of key staff impacted slightly on performance for a short while but the section has recovered.	Substantial Assurance	N/A
Catering	Catering services are provided to 68 schools including 7 secondary. Income is over £3m with a subsidy of £1m. Income has fallen in the last 3 years, some of which can be attributed to three secondary schools opting out.	February 2011	33	The service was APSE best performer in the UK in 2008. Good progress has been made in the WAG Appetite for Life Plan. Budget monitoring is generally good but improvements could be made regarding primary school income and price	Reasonable Assurance	Spring term

				checks on suppliers. The Directorate needs to be clear in its responsibilities for those schools who have opted out of the catering service.		
Community Focussed Schools Grant	£195k was received in 2009/10 for community focused school activities, small and rural schools and childcare.	January 2011	15	Generally suitable controls are in place to manage the grant money. We have raised concerns over some after school club grant claims.	Reasonable Assurance	January / February 2011

4.2 Members are invited to raise any issues on these audits or to request the production of a fuller report at the next meeting.

5. Effect upon Policy Framework & Procedure Rules.

5.1 None

6. Equality Impact Assessment.

6.1 There are no equality issues

7. Financial Implications

7.1 None.

8. Recommendation.

8.1 That the Committee note the report.

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3 March 2011

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Background documents:

Internal Audit reports relating to the above audits held within the Internal Audit Division.