WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

01 MARCH 2021

Title:

PROGRESS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION INTERNAL AUDIT AGREED ACTIONS

Lead Councillor: Councillor Peter Marriott, Chairman of the Audit Committee

Head of Service: Graeme Clark, Strategic Director

Key decision: Yes

Access: Public

1. Purpose and summary

1.1 To inform the Audit Committee of Senior Management's progress in implementing the agreed actions raised by Internal Audit following a review in their service areas. This report will enable the Committee to consider what action is required in respect of those that are overdue or appear likely to be implemented later than the original agreed implementation date.

2. Recommendation/s

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee considers the information contained in Annexe 1 and, following discussion at the Audit Committee meeting identifies any action it wishes to be taken and

Considers the Head of Service(s) justification for a request for a change in the agreed target date for the Management Actions (s) listed in **Annexe 2** and agree an appropriate implementation date(s).

3. Reason for the recommendation

To enable the Audit Committee to be informed of the status of agreed actions accepted by Heads of Service but not yet implemented or progress made to implement by the agreed implementation date.

4. Background

4.1 This report provides the Audit Committee with the latest position regarding the implementation of Internal Audit agreed actions.

5. Relationship to the Corporate Strategy and Service Plan

5.1 A financially sound Waverley, with infrastructure and services fit for the future.

6. Implications of decision

6.1 Resource (Finance, procurement, staffing, IT)

Internal audit work helps management in achieving good value for money and, individual agreed actions may have value for money implications and protect the council from financial risks.

6.2 Risk management

There is a risk that where weakness or non-compliance identified as part of audit reviews, if not actioned to strengthen the controls will not assist to prevent the materialising of the risks identified.

6.3 Legal

There are no direct legal implications, although good governance and probity are strengthened by attending to the matters raised within the audit agreed actionns.

6.4 Equality, diversity and inclusion

There are no direct equality, diversity or inclusion implications in this report. Equality impact assessments are carried out when necessary across the council to ensure service delivery meets the requirements of the Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010.

6.5 Climate emergency declaration

There are no direct implications in this report

7. Consultation and engagement

7.1 Heads of Service

8. Other options considered

8.1 N/A

9. Governance journey

9.1 The minutes of the meeting will be included on the Council agenda.

Annexes:

Annexe 1 – provides the current position on agreed actions due for completion at the end of the month of the Audit Committee date.

Annexe 2 – provides the requests from Heads of Service for changes to the agreed action dates.

Background Papers

There are no background papers, as defined by Section 100D (5) of the Local Government Act 1972).

CONTACT OFFICER:

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Agreed and signed off by: Legal Services: 09/02/2021 Head of Finance:08/02/2021 Strategic Director: 09/02/2021

Portfolio Holder: N/A

Agreed Internal Audit Actions overdue or due within the end of the month after the AC 31 March 2021



Generated on: 18 February 2021

	Action Status						
3	Cancelled						
	Overdue; Neglected						
Δ	Unassigned; Check Progress						
	Not Started; In Progress; Assigned						
0	Completed						

Head of Service Ellwood, Zac

	IA20/	08.001 Tar	get Response	Times			
				in the Enforcement	Exit Meeting Date	15-Jan-2020	
Action Code & Description	Priority of receipt of receipt of Priority	an for the 3 priorities are not currently measured or reported: riority One – Major – First contact or site visit within 1 working day from eccipt of complaint riority Two – Medium – First contact or site visit within 5 working days from eccipt of complaint riority Three – Low – First contact or site visit within 10 working days from eccipt of complaint					31-Mar-2021
Risk Level		Medium Pr	iority			Risk RAG	
Audit Report and Descript		IA20/08 Pla	ning Enforcement				
Agreed Action		replaces ILA 1.2 The info replaces ILA	P. rmation for repor P.		orporated into the incorple on request from the		
Status	In Progress Progress 80% Head Serv						Zac Ellwood
All Notes	Due changed re AC November agreement to 31/03/2021 04-Dec-2020						04-Dec-2020

)/08.002 Out of Date Enforcement Plan								
Action Code & Description	There ha	as been six years of operations since the Enforcement Plan was Elements of the plan relating to key performance indicators and								
	proactiv	e working are out of date and no longer reflect operational activity.	Due Date	31-Mar-2021						
Risk Level		Medium Priority	Risk RAG							
Audit Report and Descript		IA20/08 Planning Enforcement								
Agreed Action		To update and agree the Local Planning Enforcement Plan								
		Risk - Key policy document may be out of date and not reflect current operations.								

Status		In Progress	Progress	20%	Head of Service	Zac Ellwood
Due date changed re AC November agreement to 31/03/2021						04-Dec-2020
Meeting with Development Manager & Enforcement Manager arranged for November and reporting timescales set in Forward Plan.						09-Nov-2020

	IA20/:	L7.001.1 F	Reconciliation				
Action Code	overall r received	econciliation and that wh	process does not	t take place betwee	ns, we noted that an en planning income n, ILAP, and planning	Exit Meeting Date	16-Jun-2020
Description	that inco		is accurately ref	petter enable the C lected and would g	ouncil to demonstrate ive additional	Due Date	28-Feb-2021
Risk Level		Medium Pı	iority			Risk RAG	
	Audit Report Code IA20/17 Planning Fee Income						
Agreed Action Initiate reconciliation process using current systems.			tems.				
Status			Check Progress	Progress	80%	Head of Service	Zac Ellwood ; Peter Vickers
All Notes	The Audit Committee's agreement to a further extension of the due date to 31 Ma requested. This Action is dependent on the successful roll out of the new, bespoke system, which, due to technical issues and the need for further robust testing and comprehensive training, has been put back to a 'go live' date of Monday 22 March Preparations are in place to implement this action shortly following the Horizon go with an appropriate testing period of live system data to 'prove the process.'					oke Horizon and rch 2021.	11-Feb-2021
	Due date		04-Dec-2020				
	Linked to	o Project Ho	rizon - rolloout Q	4 2020;/21			09-Nov-2020
	IA20/:	L7.001.2 F	unctionality o	of the new Plan	ning Database		
Action Code & Description	From our discussion with Planning and Accountancy teams, we noted that an overall reconciliation process does not take place between planning income received and that which is logged in the planning system, ILAP, and planning income recorded in the accounts.						16-Jun-2020
	that inco	process being ome received ince to that	Due Date	28-Feb-2021			
Risk Level		Medium Pr	iority			Risk RAG	
Audit Report and Descript		IA20/17 Pla	nning Fee Incom	e		-	•
Agreed Actio	n	Developme	nt of new Plannin	g database to ensu	re an automatic proces	ss is available.	
Status			Check Progress	Progress	80%	Head of Service	Zac Ellwood
All Notes	The Audit Committee's agreement to a further extension of the due date to 31 May 2021 is requested. This Action is dependent on the successful roll out of the new, bespoke Horizon system, which, due to technical issues and the need for further robust testing and comprehensive training, has been put back to a 'go live' date of Monday 22 March 2021. Preparations are in place to implement this action shortly following the Horizon go-live date, with an appropriate testing period of live system data to 'prove the process.'						11-Feb-2021
	Due date changed re AC November agreement to 28/02/2021					04-Dec-2020	
Action Code &				years, based on a		Exit Meeting	16-Jun-2020
Description	increasir	ng housing n	narket and using	the assumption tha	at status quo would	Date	
	apply to planning activity regardless of outside events which had direct effects Due						28-Feb-2021

	on consu	ımer confide	nce in the pas	t.			
	in terms	of budget se		urn mitigate the ris	rm a different outcome k of setting too		
Risk Level		Medium Pr	riority			Risk RAG	
Audit Report and Descript		IA20/17 Pla	nning Fee Inco	ome			
Agreed Actio	n	Record pre-	application adv	vice on larger applic	cations likely to be suppo	ortable.	
Status			Check Progress	Progress	40%	Head of Service	Zac Ellwood
	Internal task and finish group now set up to look at this matter.						11-Feb-2021
All Notes	requeste system, compreh Preparat	ed. This Action which, due to the training training training training training are in p	on is dependen to technical iss ing, has been place to implen	t on the successful ues and the need fo out back to a 'go liv nent this action sho	on of the due date to 31 roll out of the new, bespor further robust testing e' date of Monday 22 Martly following the Horizon to 'prove the process.'	ooke Horizon and arch 2021.	11-Feb-2021
	Due date	e changed re	AC November	agreement to 28/0	02/2021		04-Dec-2020
	TA20/	17 002 3 5)evelonmon	t Timescales			
Action Code	Budgets	were set, w	ithin the last fe	ew years, based on	a consistently hat status quo would	Exit Meeting Date	16-Jun-2020
& Description	apply to planning activity regardless of outside events which had direct effects on consumer confidence in the past.					Due Date	28-Feb-2021
Risk Level		Medium Pr	riority			Risk RAG	
Audit Report and Descript		IA20/17 Pla	nning Fee Inco	ome			
Agreed Actio	n	Discussions	with develope	rs and landowners	regarding timescales of	sites coming for	ward.
Status			Check Progress	Progress	75%	Head of Service	Zac Ellwood
All Notes	requeste system, compreh Preparat	ed. This Action which, due to the training training training training training are in p	on is dependen to technical iss ing, has been blace to implen	t on the successful ues and the need fo out back to a 'go liv nent this action sho	on of the due date to 31 roll out of the new, bespor further robust testing e' date of Monday 22 Martly following the Horizor to 'prove the process.'	ooke Horizon and arch 2021.	11-Feb-2021
	Due date	e changed re	AC November	agreement to 28/0	02/2021		04-Dec-2020
	IA20/	L7.003.1 F	Planning Ref	ference Number			
	Testing the	for the appro ough to the	oval of refunds finance systen	, from the ILAP syst	em/documentation	Exit Meeting Date	16-Jun-2020
Action Code & Description	request had approval for refund and we were also unable to confirm that the request had approval for refund and we were also unable to confirm the date that the refund was requested in order to check it had been issued both appropriately and in a timely manner. Where refunds are issued it is important to retain an audit data trail and document authorisations, timings and reasons for refunds being made. For example, including an appropriate planning reference on Agresso payment records alongside. Risk: Risk of loss of income						28-Feb-2021
Risk Level		High Priori	ity			Risk RAG	

Audit Report and Descript		II/V/II/I / Planning Egg Incomg						
Agreed Action Discussions with Finance Service over joint procedures to ensure that all records necessary are the Planning database and the Finance records hold the Planning reference for refunds.								
Status	Check Progress Progress 50% Head of Service				Zac Ellwood; Peter Vickers			
The Audit Committee's agreement to a further extension of the due date to 31 May 2021 is requested. This Action is dependent on the successful roll out of the new, bespoke Horizon system, which, due to technical issues and the need for further robust testing and						11-Feb-2021		
	Due date changed re AC November agreement to 28/02/2021 04-Dec-2020						04-Dec-2020	

	IA20/	17.003.2 P	lanning Proce	dure Note			
	held, th	rough to the	finance system, A		leted on a reduced	Exit Meeting Date	16-Jun-2020
	refunds.		ility of the ILAP s	ystem to run a rep	oort specifically on		
Action Code & Description	selected request that the appropr Where r docume example records	owever, from filing completed earlier in the 2019/2020 financial year, we elected a sample of five refunds. For 2/5 we were unable to confirm that the equest had approval for refund and we were also unable to confirm the date nat the refund was requested in order to check it had been issued both ppropriately and in a timely manner. Where refunds are issued it is important to retain an audit data trail and ocument authorisations, timings and reasons for refunds being made. For example, including an appropriate planning reference on Agresso payment ecords alongside confirmation of the date of any refund paid would enable such a data trail to be captured.					
Risk Level		High Priori	ty			Risk RAG	
Audit Report and Descript		IA20/17 Pla	nning Fee Income	2			
Agreed Actio	n	Update the	Planning procedu	re note.			
Status			Check Progress	Progress	33%	Head of Service	Zac Ellwood
The Audit Committee's agreement to a further extension of the due date to 31 May 2021 is requested. This Action is dependent on the successful roll out of the new, bespoke Horizon system, which, due to technical issues and the need for further robust testing and comprehensive training, has been put back to a 'go live' date of Monday 22 March 2021. All Notes All Notes with an appropriate testing period of live system data to 'prove the process.'						11-Feb-2021	
	Due dat	e changed re	AC November ag	reement to 28/02	/2021		04-Dec-2020
	ь	Oue date changed re AC November agreement to 28/02/2021 Procedure Notes to be updated as part of Project Horizon rollout					09-Nov-2020

		IA20/17.004.1 Automate payment extraction from portal		
		The interface between the Agresso and ILAP system relies on manual input. It is inevitable that errors will occur from time to time where they might not	Exit Meeting Date	16-Jun-2020
Action & Descri	i Code	with a computer system interface. Our review of a sample of 50 found that in terms of the receipt of income: . Two records were unable to be located on ILAP Three amounts were recorded incorrectly on ILAP . In three further instances, a record of checks made on income which had been received had not been retained. Whilst the errors were minor in comparison to the amount of income tested,	Due Date	28-Feb-2021

	highlight	nonstrates the s that staff r of income r					
Risk Level High Priority Risk RAG						Risk RAG	
Audit Report Code and Description IA20/17 Planning Fee Income							
Agreed Actio	Ensure the new Planning Database extracts the payment details directly from the Porremove manual entry of data.					tal payment to	
Status			Check Progress	Progress	80%	Head of Service	Zac Ellwood
The Audit Committee's agreement to a further extension of the due date to 31 May 2021 is requested. This Action is dependent on the successful roll out of the new, bespoke Horizon system, which, due to technical issues and the need for further robust testing and comprehensive training, has been put back to a 'go live' date of Monday 22 March 2021. Preparations are in place to implement this action shortly following the Horizon go-live date, with an appropriate testing period of live system data to 'prove the process.'							11-Feb-2021
	Due date	e changed re	AC November ag	reement to 28/02	/2021		04-Dec-2020

	IA20/:	17.004.2 S	pot Checks				
	is inevita	able that erro	ors will occur from		es on manual input. It ere they might not	Exit Meeting Date	16-Jun-2020
Action Code & Description	Our revi . Two re . Three a . In three been red Whilst the this dem highlight	mputer system interface. ew of a sample of 50 found that in terms of the receipt of income: cords were unable to be located on ILAP. mounts were recorded incorrectly on ILAP e further instances, a record of checks made on income which had eived had not been retained. e errors were minor in comparison to the amount of income tested, constrates the possibility of errors in recording information, and is that staff must remain vigilant when recording income to ensure of income recording.					28-Feb-2021
Risk Level		High Priori	ty			Risk RAG	
Audit Report and Descript		IA20/17 Pla	nning Fee Income	2			
Agreed Actio	n		new Planning Data		payment details direct	tly from the Por	tal payment to
Status			Check Progress	Progress	80%	Head of Service	Zac Ellwood
All Notes	The Audit Committee's agreement to a further extension of the due date to 31 May 2021 i requested. This Action is dependent on the successful roll out of the new, bespoke Horizor system, which, due to technical issues and the need for further robust testing and comprehensive training, has been put back to a 'go live' date of Monday 22 March 2021. Preparations are in place to implement this action shortly following the Horizon go-live dat with an appropriate testing period of live system data to 'prove the process.'					oke Horizon and rch 2021.	11-Feb-2021
	Due date	e changed re	AC November ag	reement to 28/02	/2021		04-Dec-2020

	IA20/17.004.3 Data on Systems		
	is inevitable that errors will occur from time to time where they might not	Exit Meeting Date	09-Nov-2020
Action Code & Description	. Two records were unable to be located on ILAP. . Three amounts were recorded incorrectly on ILAP	Due Date	28-Feb-2021

	accuracy	of income r	of income recording.				
Risk Level		High Priority Risk RAG					
Audit Report and Descript		IA20/17 Planning Fee Income					
Agreed Actio	Discuss with the Finance service ways to record more specific data regarding the applicant/site address/Planning reference for incoming payments and refunds on the Finance systems.						
Status		Check Progress Progress 20% Head of Service		Zac Ellwood ; Peter Vickers			
All Notes	The Audit Committee's agreement to a further extension of the due date to 31 May 2021 is requested. This Action is dependent on the successful roll out of the new, bespoke Horizon system, which, due to technical issues and the need for further robust testing and comprehensive training, has been put back to a 'go live' date of Monday 22 March 2021. Preparations are in place to implement this action shortly following the Horizon go-live date, with an appropriate testing period of live system data to 'prove the process.'						
	Due dat	e changed re	AC November ag	reement to 28/02	/2021		04-Dec-2020

	TA20/1	17 004 4 P	rocedure Note	ec .			
	The inte	rface betwee able that erro	n the Agresso an ors will occur from		es on manual input. It re they might not	Exit Meeting Date	16-Jun-2020
Action Code With a computer system interface. Our review of a sample of 50 found that in terms of the records were unable to be located on ILAP. Three amounts were recorded incorrectly on ILAP. In three further instances, a record of checks made on i been received had not been retained.				·	Due Date	28-Feb-2021	
	Whilst the errors were minor in comparison to the amount of income tested, this demonstrates the possibility of errors in recording information, and highlights that staff must remain vigilant when recording income to ensure accuracy of income recording.						
Risk Level		High Priori	ty			Risk RAG	
Audit Report and Descript		IA20/17 Pla	nning Fee Income	е		-	
Agreed Actio	n		refunds of paym		ms with the Planning So act same procedure for		
Status			Check Progress	Progress	33%	Head of Service	Zac Ellwood
All Notes	The Audit Committee's agreement to a further extension of the due date to 31 May 2021 is requested. This Action is dependent on the successful roll out of the new, bespoke Horizon system, which, due to technical issues and the need for further robust testing and comprehensive training, has been put back to a 'go live' date of Monday 22 March 2021. Preparations are in place to implement this action shortly following the Horizon go-live date, with an appropriate testing period of live system data to 'prove the process.'				oke Horizon and rch 2021.	11-Feb-2021	
	Due date	e changed re	AC November ac	reement to 28/02	/2021		04-Dec-2020

Head of Service Vickers, Peter

		IA21/02.001.1 Procedures Notes re Revenues		
		the four departments that regularly process BACS payments or BACS	Exit Meeting Date	02-Nov-2020
Action C & Descript	tion	collections. For Revenues & Benefits however, these procedures have not been updated since the responsibility for processing BACS moved to the department. A control sheet also includes sign off from people no longer involved in the process.	Due Date	31-Oct-2020

	checking source fi For Hous responsi should b Risk: - N then out If roles a	bunts Payable & Receivable, procedures do not clearly document the grange of the process whereby BACS files are checked against the ille. Sing, procedures do not adequately explain the roles and ibilities for those involved in the BACS process, including what checks be performed against the Orchard source file to the BACS file. Where processes remain unchanged since the introduction of PT-X of date activities could cause unnecessary effort and inefficiencies. and responsibilities for BACS processes are unclear, then errors could be, particularly for those who do not regularly perform them.					
Risk Level		Medium Pr	iority			Risk RAG	
-	Audit Report Code and Description IA21/02 Bacs Process						
Agreed Actio	eed Action Procedure notes to be updated to reflect that processing has move to				rocessing has move to	the department	. (PV)
Status			Overdue Progress 0%			Head of Service	Peter Vickers;
All Notes							

	IA21/0	02.002.2 R	evenues refu	nd of payments	5			
Action Code	schedule	es (e.g. to ac	count for bank ho	•	Exit Meeting Date	02-Nov-2020		
Description	Revenues & Benefits NNDR / Council tax refund payments, which are run every Tuesday Accounts Payable and Receivable BACS run processed every Monday and Thursday. Risk: BACS submissions could be missed.				Due Date	31-Oct-2020		
Risk Level		Medium Pr	iority			Risk RAG		
Audit Report and Descript		IA21/02 Bac	A21/02 Bacs Process					
Agreed Actio	n	Refund payr	nents, which are	run every Tuesday	, to be included on the	BACS schedule	e. (PV)	
Status	atus Overdue Progress 0%		0%	Head of Service	Peter Vickers;			
All Notes								

	IA21/0	02.004.1 N	lominated dep	outy familiarisa	ntion with Bacs pro	cess		
Action Code &	carry ou	firmed that all departments have nominated secondary persons to ut each stage of the BACS process, however for Revenues and Benefits Exit Meeting Date			_	02-Nov-2020		
Description	Titlere has not been sufficient opportunity for the nonlinated deputy to process				Due Date	30-Oct-2020		
Risk Level		Medium Pr	iority			Risk RAG		
Audit Report and Descript		IA21/02 Bad	A21/02 Bacs Process					
Agreed Actio	n	Nominated of	deputy to be prov	ided with opportu	nity to be confident wit	h the process. ((PV)	
Status	Overdue Progress 0%		Head of Service	Peter Vickers;				
All Notes								

Head of Service Wagstaff, Hugh

l		IA21/02.001.3 Procedure notes in Housing		
	Dagawintian	We confirmed that BACS processes have been documented in part for each of the four departments that regularly process BACS payments or BACS	Exit Meeting Date	02-Nov-2020
	Description	collections.	Due Date	31-Jan-2021

	responsion should be responsively. Risk: - then out If roles are	For Housing, procedures do not adequately explain the roles and responsibilities for those involved in the BACS process, including what checks should be performed against the Orchard source file to the BACS file. Risk: - Where processes remain unchanged since the introduction of PT-X then out of date activities could cause unnecessary effort and inefficiencies. If roles and responsibilities for BACS processes are unclear, then errors could be made, particularly for those who do not regularly perform them.					
Risk Level		Low Priorit	:y			Risk RAG	
Audit Report and Descript		IA21/02 Bad	cs Process				
Agreed Actio	n	Procedures will be updated to ensure that they adequately explain the roles and responsibilities for involved in the BACS process. (HW)					onsibilities for those
Status		Check Progress 0% Head of Service					Hugh Wagstaff
All Notes		Procedure note update to include PT-X included in wider rents process notes review. Delay in completion due to pandemic priorities and rent increase work to be completed 26 Feb.					

	IA21/0	02.002.1 H	ousing BACS	scheduling			
	calendar	s. Where Ho	using BACS runs		Exit Meeting Date	02-Nov-2020	
Action Code & Description				nsuming to extract are not documente	d centrally elsewhere.		
				owing BACS runs a ccount for bank ho		Due Date	31-Jan-2021
	Risk: -	BACS submis	sions could be m	issed.			
Risk Level		Medium Pri	iority			Risk RAG	
Audit Report and Descript		IA21/02 Bac	s Process				
Agreed Actio	n	Housing pro direct debit		e updated to refer	that the central Outlo	ok Team Calend	lar contains the
Status	Check Progress 0%		Head of Service	Hugh Wagstaff			
All Notes	Current practice to be added to procedure notes. Included in wider rent process review. Delay in completion due to pandemic priorities and rent increase work to be completed 26 Feb.				08-Feb-2021		

	IA21/0	03.001.3 P	rocesses				
Action Code	completi	ng all proces	J 1	r capable of to the collection and	Exit Meeting Date	29-Oct-2020	
& Description	There ar a deputi Risk: - A	ling of Direct Debits. are no processes in place for these tasks to be effectively carried out by itising officer in their absence. A lack of effective business continuity arrangements may result in with the ability to collect and refund customer direct debits.				Due Date	26-Feb-2021
Risk Level						Risk RAG	
Audit Report and Descript		IA21/03 Rer	nt Collection				
Agreed Actio	n	All processe	s will be reviewed	d and re-written.			
Status	Check Progress Progress 50%			Head of Service	Hugh Wagstaff		
All Notes	Systems Administrator commenced updating processes with screen shots expected to be completed by end Feb 2021.				22-Jan-2021		

	Planning Fee Income
Ref No /s	1000/47 004 4 1000/47 004 0 1000/47 000 0
	IA20/17.001.1, IA20/17.001.2, IA20/17.002.2,
	IA20/17.002.3, IA20/17.003.1, IA20/17.003.2,
	IA20/17.004.1, IA20/17.004.2, IA20/17.004.3, IA20/17.004.4.
	These actions are dependent on the successful roll out of the new, bespoke Horizon system, which, due to technical issues and the need for further robust testing and comprehensive training, has been put back to a 'go live' date of Monday 22 March 2021.
	Preparations are in place to implement this action shortly following the Horizon go-live date, with an appropriate testing period of live system data to 'prove the process.
	Therefore the Audit Committee's agreement to a further extension of the due date to 31 May 2021 is requested.
Head of Service	Head of planning and Economic Development