

Decision maker: Cabinet Member for Resources

Subject: Audit & Performance Improvement Service Business Plan

Date of decision: 12th July 2012

Report by: Head of Audit & Performance Improvement Service

Wards affected: All

Key decision (over £250k): No

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Portfolio Holder for the Audit & Performance Improvement Service Business Plan 2012-2013.

2. Recommendations

The Cabinet Member for Resources is recommended to approve the Audit & Performance Improvement Service Business Plan.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Business Plan for the service is attached at Appendix 1. For simplicity and ease of communication, this has been produced as a slide-deck rather than in the more conventional document format.
- 3.2 Members have now agreed to proposals to merge the Audit & Performance Improvement Service with Human Resources and Legal Services. Although this means that the service will become part of a larger unit, it is still necessary for business planning to take place because:
- a) The merger of services will not take place until later in the year
 - b) The principle roles and functions of the service will continue into the future, albeit as part of a larger service
- 3.3 As explained in the business plan, the role of the service has evolved considerably since its creation in 2008. Its initial focus was on embedding good governance and organisational improvement. It then took on the lead role in developing and managing the Transformation Programme. The service now needs to support the organisation into the future through the following four service priorities:

- Support the organisation in the **commissioning** of services, by providing co-ordinated strategic and technical expertise
- Ensure effective **governance** for the council and its partnerships through the co-ordinated management of internal audit, performance, procurement, risk and projects
- Support the council in its major programmes, especially **transformation and regeneration**, including shaping the future direction of those programmes
- Lead on key **strategies** and policies, e.g. sustainability & climate change and localism, ensuring they are properly embedded within the organisation

4. Reasons for Recommendations

To enable the Audit & Performance Improvement Service to implement the 2012-2013 Business Plan.

5. Equalities Impact Assessment

The Business Plan itself has not been subject to an EIA, but EIAs will be carried out on any actions or new policies arising from the objectives in the plan

6. Head of Legal's Comments

Should there be any actions arising from the plan which requires a legal input, the author is expected to raise the issue directly with the legal section.

7. Head of Finance's Comments

Generally, service objectives are to be achieved within the cash limit set out in the approved 2012/13 budget.

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Signed by

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of Document	Location
None	

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/
deferred/rejected by on

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Signed by