

Audit Progress report
Walsall Metropolitan
Borough Council

APRIL 2005

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Introduction

Will members please note that in accordance with my usual practice the additions from the previous report as shown in ***bold italic script***.

Audit programme	Planned start date	Planned Completion date	Progress to date	Comments
1 Planning		August 2004	Completed	Presented to and agreed at September Audit committee
2 Financial Governance	Feb 2005	May 2005	Work is ongoing	We are working to ensure that we can take full account of Internal audit work.
3 Final Accounts	Jul 2005	September 2005		<p>We have provided some guidance to council staff on what we need in working papers to support the accounts</p> <p>The Ac has provided a workshop for senior accountants in local government which was attended by your Finance resource Planning manager.</p> <p>We have begun our work on your core processes upon which we plan to seek reliance in our detailed testing (Ledger and Budgetary controls and closedown processes)</p> <p><i>We have commenced some early testing on fixed assets.</i></p>
4 Detailed review of Internal Audit.	Feb 2005	April 2005	We have reviewed the organisational and structural processes within the section but as many audits are still ongoing we have not yet completed our detailed review of the quality of the work.	We are satisfied that the team is structured resourced and managed to provide an effective service.
5 Putting the Citizen First Project	ongoing			<p>We plan to work with Internal audit on this project.</p> <p>Work will include a review of the BAFO process; consideration of affordability, Public Sector comparator and accounting issues; a review of draft contract conditions</p> <p><i>We have had one meeting with Fujitsu, two update meetings with the project team and discussions with IA as to how, jointly, we can</i></p>

				<p><i>gain the assurance needed.</i></p> <p><i>The Chief Executive has asked that we specifically ensure that there are effective audit arrangements written into the contract and contract management procedures.</i></p> <p><i>We now meet each two weeks with the project team and IA to discuss issues as they arise.</i></p>
6 SERCO	December 2004	April 2005	<p>Audit brief agreed with Director.</p> <p>Work is ongoing</p>	
7. ORACLES Implementation	November 2004	February 2005	<p>Project brief agreed with Assistant Director of Finance</p>	<p>We are working with Internal Audit on this project to ensure we bring complementary skills to bear and to avoid duplication</p> <p>We have now received the IA report and our work will be finalised by 21 April and a draft report produced by the end of April 2005.</p>
8 Use of Agency Staffing in Social Services	March 2005	March 2005		<p>A short update from the Directorate of Social care and Supported Housing will be included as a separate item on the agenda</p>
9 Community associations	November 2004	March 2005	Work completed	<p>Report agreed with Executive Director.</p> <p>A copy is on the agenda, together with a completed action plan</p>
10. Partnership working	November 2004	April 2005	<p>Audit brief agreed with Director</p>	<p>This audit was brought forward at the request of the Audit committee.</p> <p>Fact finding is currently being carried out. This will involve summarising work DA has already done in this area and liaison with Internal Audit.</p> <p>We have put further work on this topic on hold until the Audit Commission Corporate assessment is completed in order to ensure there is no duplication and council staff are not unduly burdened with inspection and audit at the same time</p> <p>The work is substantially complete and a draft report will be sent to officers by the end of April.</p>

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11 Review of Nurrcis	February 2005	April 2005	We commenced our work on this on 25 th February 2005 and will report to the Directorate by the end of march in order to inform the final accounts process	The Directorate has been working to revise procedures around this system. We plan to review the action taken to avoid problems in the 2004/05 final accounts preparation and audit. <i>We have completed our work and a draft report will be issued by 22nd April.</i>
12 Trent implementation	March 2005	June 2005		Building on the work of Internal audit we will seek to ensure that satisfactory controls are put in place and are being followed.
13 BVP 109	March 2005	April 2005	Work completed and draft report in preparation	<i>Following the qualification of the PI last year we were asked to carry out some early work to provide an assessment of the improvements which the council had made in its systems. A draft report will be issued by 22nd April</i>
14 Education PIs	March 2005	April 2005	Work ongoing	<i>Following significant amendments to Education PIs last year we were asked to carry out some early work on data currently available.</i>
15 Corporate Performance Assessment.	March 2005	April 2005	Work complete and the report has been published.	<i>The assessment recorded Walsall's assessment as 'Fair' which reflects the progress the council has made in a short timescale.</i>
General issues				<i>We have had discussions with officers to provide our views on</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>NRF procedures in relation to Education</i> <i>VAT on off street parking</i>

Status of our reports to the Council

Our reports are prepared in the context of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies issued by the Audit Commission. Reports are prepared by appointed auditors and addressed to Members or officers. They are prepared for the sole use of the audited body, and no responsibility is taken by auditors to any Member or officer in their individual capacity, or to any third party.