

Internal Audit Progress Report 30th January 2019

Elizabeth Goodwin - Chief Internal Auditor

Introduction

The Internal Audit function is a statutory function for all Local Authorities. Southampton City Council Internal Audit service has an in-house team and a shared Chief Internal Auditor with Portsmouth City Council (PCC). The in house audit team is supported by audit & counter fraud staff from PCC under a collaborative working arrangement.

The requirement for an internal audit function in local government is detailed within the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015, which states that a relevant body must:

'Undertake an effective internal audit to evaluate the effectiveness of its risk management, control and governance processes, taking into account public sector internal auditing standards or guidance.'

The standards for 'proper practices' are laid down in the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards [the Standards – updated 2016].

Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to update the committee on the progress of the 2018/19 Audit Plan as at 30th January 2019 and to highlight any significant risk exposure and control issues, including fraud and governance risks. Internal audit reviews culminate in an opinion on the assurance that can be placed on the effectiveness of the framework of risk management, control and governance designed to support the achievement of management objectives. Assurance opinions are categorised as follows:

Overall Assurance Levels:	Description / Examples
Assurance	No issues or minor improvements noted within the audit but based on the testing conducted, assurance can be placed that the activity is of low risk to the Authority
Reasonable Assurance	Control weaknesses or risks were identified but overall the activities do not pose significant risks to the Authority
Limited Assurance	Control weaknesses or risks were identified which pose a more significant risk to the Authority
No Assurance	Major individual issues identified or collectively a number of issues raised which could significantly impact the overall objectives of the activity that was subject to the Audit

NOTE: Where the audit receives an overall level of 'No Assurance' then the exceptions are be reported in their entirety to the Governance Committee along with the Directors comments.

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The following table outline the exceptions raised in audit reports and are reported on in priority order.

Exception Priority Level	Description
Low Risk - Improvement	Very low risk exceptions or recommendations that are classed as improvements that are intended to help the service fine tune its control framework or improve service effectiveness and efficiency. An example of an improvement recommendation would be making changes to a filing system to improve the quality of the management trail.
Medium Risk	These are control weaknesses that may expose the system function or process to a key risk but the likelihood of the risk occurring is low.
High Risk	Action needs to be taken to address significant control weaknesses but over a reasonable timeframe rather than immediately. These issues are not "show stopping" but are still important to ensure that controls can be relied upon for the effective performance of the service or function. If not addressed, they can, over time, become critical. An example of an important exception would be the introduction of controls to detect and prevent fraud.
Critical Risk	Control weakness that could have a significant impact upon not only the system function or process objectives but also the achievement of the organisation's objectives in relation to: The efficient and effective use of resources, The safeguarding of assets, The preparation of reliable financial and operational information, Compliance with laws and regulations and corrective action needs to be taken immediately.

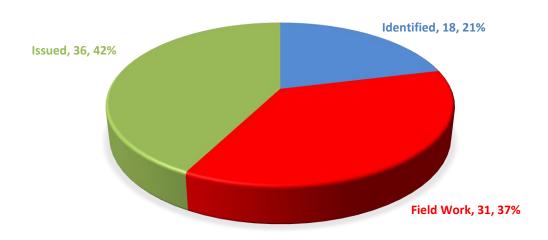
NOTE: Any critical exceptions found the exceptions will be reported in their entirety to the Governance Committee along with the Directors comments.

The following table outlines the follow up categories used to describe the outcome of follow up testing completed.

Follow Up Categories	Description
Open	No action has been taken on agreed action.
Pending	Actions cannot be taken at the current time but steps have been taken to prepare.
In Progress	Progress has been made on the agreed action however they have not been completed.
Implemented but not Effective	Agreed action implemented but not effective in mitigating the risk.
Closed - Verified	Agreed action implemented and risk mitigated, verified by follow up testing.
Closed - Not Verified	Client has stated action has been completed but unable to verify via testing.
Closed – Management Accepts Risk	Management have accepted the risk highlighted from the exception
Closed – No Longer Applicable	Risk exposure no longer applicable.

Audit Plan Progress:

AUDIT PLAN PROGRESS TO 30TH JANUARY 2019



79% of the Audit Plan has been completed or is in progress as at 30th January 2019. The remaining 21% has yet to commence. This is based on 85 audits, which includes follow up reviews.

Breakdown of Progress:

Status	Number of Audits
Identified	18
Field Work	31
Draft Report	0
Issued Report	36

Unplanned Work:

Since 30th October 2018 to 30th January 2019, Internal Audit has provided advice/performed adhoc work in the following area. (For reference, Advice is only recorded when the time taken to provide the advice exceeds 1 hour).

- Data Analysis and data matching in relation to Duplicate Invoices. Work has been undertaken to use data analytics software
 to identify potential duplicate invoices and or payments with the view to conduct continuous testing in this area.
- Compiling documentation for a Freedom of Information request for reports commenting on procurement since 2010.

Audit Plan Status/Changes:

The following changes have been made to the plan since it was agreed earlier in the year. These changes are as follows;

Audits removed from the audit plan:

- 1. Continuing Healthcare and NNDR (National Non-Domestic Rates) have been removed as there were no high risk areas at close of audit and therefore no follow-up is required.
- 2. Accounts Payable was entered twice in the 2018/19 audit plan, one entry has therefore been removed.
- 3. Telecommunications has been removed as the work required will be carried out as part of the Mobile Devices review.
- 4. LATCo has been removed as this area is currently on hold pending the transfer of services from CAPITA to SCC. Consideration for auditing in this area will be given as part of the 2019/20 planning processes.
- 5. Project 'Modular Housing' has been removed due to the project being placed on hold. Consideration for auditing in this area will be given as part of the 2019/20 planning processes.
- 6. Developing Business Plans and Business Planning & Risk Management (Public Health) have been removed to enable embedding of new arrangements. This will now be audited as part of the 2019/20 audit plan.
- 7. HMO (Houses in Multiple Occupation) Licensing has been moved to the 2019/20 audit plan following a change in legislation. This move will enable the service to embed any amendments to processes as a result of the changes.
- 8. Housing Benefits has been moved to the 2019/20 audit plan as no exceptions were raised at close of audit for 2017/18.
- 9. Website Project Development, IT Application & Operating Systems, Recruitment & Retention, and Admissions & Exclusions are all moved to the 2019/20 audit plan to accommodate resourcing issues within the audit team following long term sickness absence.
- 10. Short Breaks has been moved to the 2019/20 audit plan due to the new Short Breaks offer going live from the new financial year in April 2019.

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Areas of Concern:

- 1. IT Procurement, Inventory Control and Disposal See confidential Appendix A for full audit report.
- 2. Mount Pleasant School Summarised in the main body of the report, see Appendix B for full audit report.

Completed Audits between 30th October 2018 and 30th January 2019

Project Name	Hub	Overall Opinion	Total No. of Issues/Exceptions	Critical Risk	High Risk	Medium Risk	Low Risk Improvement			
Early Education & Childcare	Operational (SD Children and Families)	Assurance	1	-	-	-	1			
Scope of Audit: Council strategy, payments to providers, evidence of eligibility for free childcare entitlement, application forms, mechanism to identify failing providers and appropriate advice, help and training is provided.										
One low risk exception eligibility and 3 parent	•	•	•		e a child's birth	certificate to	confirm			
Building Control	Operational (SD Growth)	Reasonable Assurance	1	-	-	1	-			
Scope of Audit: Site inspection records, full plan applications are assessed by a surveyor, issuing of completion certificates, administration of building control fees, publishing of financial statements, robust complaints procedure.										
One medium risk exce requirement of the Buil				the general p	ublic since 201	4/15, which i	s a legal			
Planning	Operational (SD Growth)	Reasonable Assurance	2	-	-	2	-			
Scope of Audit:		publishing planning ring of planning app	fees, processing of lications.	planning app	lications, com	plaints, pre-	application			
The medium risk relaterisk relates to 8/10 pre- the target date.										
Land Charges	Strategy (SD Legal & Governance)	Reasonable Assurance	3	-	-	1	2			
Scope of Audit: Administration of local land charges, charging and collecting fees, secure register, search requests are responded to within corporate timescales and amendments to the register are accurate.										
One medium risk exception arose due to a significant time lapse since the previous study was undertaken to determine the value of the land charges fee required to cover the cost of the resource involved, meaning the council could be over or undercharging. The first low risk relates to the authority taking the fee in cash and cheque which is labour intensive due to the requirement of daily reconciliations. The other low risk relates to there not being any policies or procedures in place for the administrating of the Local Land Charges process.										

				-							
	Strategy (SD	Decemble									
Apprenticeships	HR & Organisational	Reasonable Assurance	3	-	1	2	-				
	Development)	Assurance									
	' '	reporting on the an	nrenticeshin prograi	m calculating	and naving th	ne annrentice	eshin levv				
Scope of Audit: Monitoring and reporting on the apprenticeship program, calculating and paying the apprenticeship levy, apprenticeship compliance, apprenticeship job opportunities, reclaiming allowable funds.											
The first high risk exception arose due to Internal Audit only being able to source 1 application form with approval from a sample of ten											
apprentices. The first n	nedium risk relate	s to reconciling paym	ents which highlighted	d on the tracker	spreadsheet £	£4,500 of pay	ments should				
have been received, he	owever Agresso s	showed that £3,500 ha	ad been received. The	final medium r	isk relates to o	nly 6/9 target	reporting				
figures being published	d on the website a	and therefore the auth	ority was not fulfilling	statutory requir	ements.						
It should be noted that											
decrease or eliminate											
apprentices would dec											
negative overall financ											
on apprenticeships will											
their time off the job. T							sing funds paid				
into the levy and havin		per of apprentices that	t does not compromise	e the effectiven	ess of the Auth	nority.					
Access Controls	Operational (SD	Reasonable	-			_					
Access Controls	Digital &	Assurance	5	-	-	4	1				
	Business Ops)	vusors poross the A	ctive Directory, Si-D	lom and Agrae	see personal	dovices netu	vork access				
Scope of Audit:			nonitoring of adminis								
The first medium risk re											
for 3 rd party users, this	would have been	raised as a high risk	if the statement had c	hanged signific	antly or the se	rvice hadn't b	een already				
working proactively to	get organisations	signed up. The secon	nd medium risk relates	to the lack of i	monitoring on t	he activities c	of				
administration account	s. The third medi	um risk relates to 5 sy	stems being non-com	pliant with the	Network Šecur	ity Policy in re	elation to				
password character re-	quirements and L	agan system having r	no form of password a	dministration. 7	he fourth med	ium risk is in	relation to the				
administration of the S	i-dem parking sys	stem where users are	not always setup on w	ritten instruction	on and the adm	inistrator lack	ced the				
technical understanding to differentiate between some access levels. The final low risk relates to the authorising of new user account											
requests which can be authorised by managers who might not have knowledge of the service the request is being authorised for.											
	Strategic (SD	Limited									
Ethics	Legal &	Assurance	3	-	2	1	-				
	Governance)										
Scope of Audit:	_	•	Declaration of Interes	•		•					
•	поѕрітанту Reg	jister proceaures, st	aff awareness of the	ır etnicai resp	onsibility, eth	icai risks are	e mitigatea.				

The first high risk exception arose due to the Gifts and Hospitality Policy not having been updated since 2016 and contained out of date										
information, The Register of Outside Interests Policy has not been updated since 2012 and staff are not asked to review the declarations to										
ensure they are still valid. The second high risk relates to lack of mandatory staff training regarding either policy, only 2 gifts and 16										
declarations of interest have been logged by staff in an authority employing over 5000 people (including schools) and from a survey of staff										
only 65% (11/17 respondents) had read the Registration of Outside Interest Policy and 53% (9/17 respondents) had read the Gifts and										
Hospitality Policy. The										
Public Health	Operational (SD									
(Community)	Transactional &	Limited	4	_	1	2	1			
Funerals	Universal)	Assurance								
Scope of Audit:			arches are documen	•						
-			y Solicitor where ap							
The high risk exception	0					,				
files did not include a d			•							
reviewed or approved	•	•								
property search was no					•	•				
information from finance										
compared with the info					U .					
personal items not bein				a low risk impro	vement due to	there not bei	ng a formal			
policy detailing staff re	•		ct 1984.	1	1					
Regeneration	Operational (SD	Limited	4	_	2	1	1			
Projects	Growth)	Assurance	•		_	•	•			
Scope of Audit:	_		arches are documen	•		• •				
•			ry Solicitor where ap							
One high risk exception	0	0				•				
project also not having										
however only five repo										
centre which is not bro	ken down beyond	the headline figure m	naking it harder to moi	nitor the budge	t. The Low risk	improvement	t relates to the			
Authority's Decommiss	sioning of Housing	Stock Policy including	g an inaccurate figure	for home loss	payments.					
	Operational (SD	Limited								
Pest Control	Transactional &	Assurance	6	-	1	5	-			
	Universal)				_					
Scope of Audit:	Compliance wit	h Control of Pestici	des Regulations, ref				ans tested			
•	Compliance wit	th Control of Pesticionsheet retention, fina	ncial reporting, inter	nal jobs incor	ne is reclaime	d.				
Scope of Audit: One high risk exceptio centre which resulted i	Compliance with discounts, job so arose relating to	th Control of Pesticionsheet retention, final the lack of a joined u	ncial reporting, inter	rnal jobs incor the pest contro	ne is reclaime I service, busin	d. less support a	and the contact			

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			 	en u							
reconciliations of expected refunds. The medium risks related to some customer benefit discounts not being applied correctly, a lack of a											
	stock register, appointment bookings not including sufficient information, a lack of monitoring of commercial contracts and significant delays										
in the recharging of internal jobs.											
Children in Need	Operational (SD	Limited									
(Processes)	Children and	Assurance 4		-	2	2	-				
(FIOCesses)	Families)										
Scope of Audit:	Council strateg	y, single assessmer	nts, CIN plans follow	a single asse	ssment, CIN p	lans are revi	ewed on a				
Scope of Audit.	regular basis, ti	ransfer of information	on is GDPR complian	nt, appropriate	manager ove	rsight.					
The first high risk relate	es to the informati	on in Paris not being	accurate enough to be	e relied on to co	onfirm how mai	ny cases wer	e completed				
outside of the 45 day s											
the supervision policy											
completion which was											
3/10 cases there were											
		they had not been or		lo iii two caoco		iii tiio iiiiai oo	130.				
IT Procurement,	Operational (SD	No Assumence	_			4					
Inventory Control &	Digital &	No Assurance	5	-	4	7	-				
Disposal	Business Ops)			_							
Scope of Audit:			ent of equipment, da				s, GDPR and				
ocope of Addit.	WEEE compliar	nt disposals, invento	ory controls and adm	ninistration, re	deployment p	rocess.					
See Confidential Appe	ndix A										
Mount Pleasant	0.1	Ma Assessment	4.4		44	•					
Junior School	Schools	No Assurance	14	-	11	3	-				
	Compliance wit	th Control of Pesticion	des Regulations, ref	und process.	commercial co	ontracts, mea	ans tested				
Scope of Audit:			ncial reporting, inter								
Overall, based on the I							al Audit can				
	give no assurance on the effectiveness and accountability of financial management controls until the agreed actions to the highlighted exceptions have been implemented. It was noted in this review that the Schools Financial Value statement and therefore the Governor's self-										
assessment of the fina	•										
	•		, ,		viduai exceptioi	is call be vie	weu III				
Appendix B which inclu	lues a full copy of	the Mount Pleasant	Junior School audit rej	port.							

Completed Follow up Audits between 30th October 2018 and 30th January 2019

	Projec	t Name	Follow Up Opinion	Original Opinion	Original Number of Issues /Exceptions	Critical Risk	High Risk	Medium Risk	Low Risk	Follow Up Planned	
1.	Council Tax		Reasonable Assurance	Reasonable Assurance	2	-	1	-	1	N/A	
	Scope of Follow Up:	Discounts and	exemptions ap	plied to studen	t, uninhabitable and	major refu	urbishn	nent proper	rties,		
	Summary of Follow Up:	Although the over exemptions are		evel remains the	e same, progress has l	been made	e in how	discounts,	disregards	and	
	Risk	Original Issue							Si	tatus	
	High				6) out of 25 sampled a needed to be review.	ccounts ha	ad been	awarded	In Pi	ogress	
	Follow up Testi	ing									
					ewing due to a lack of s ensure discounts do					receiving	
	Low Risk - Improvement	There is a lack of accounts are wri	•	ole management	information in respect	t of the rea	isons w	hy	(Mana	Closed (Management Accepts Risk)	
	Follow up Testi	ing							•	,	
	<u>.</u>				alue in recording inforr in adding another proc		to pape	er returns ho	olding this	detail and it	
2.	Purchase Card		Limited Assurance	Limited Assurance	4	-	4	-	-	N/A	
	Scope of Follow Up:	reconciliations,	authoriser mo	nitoring, card l							
	Summary of Follow Up:				were still in progress, assurance level on ar					d and	
	Risk	Original Issue									
	High	The first high risk related to testing highlighting 8% of purchase card transactions tested did not have adequate information and 24% failed to evidence VAT receipts for their purchases. In Progress							rogress		
	Follow up Testi	ing									

Projec		Follow Up Opinion	Original Opinion	Original Number of Issues /Exceptions	Critical Risk	Risk	Medium Risk	Low Risk	Follow Up Planned		
Follow up testing exception remain	g sampled 21 purc ns in progress due	chase card trans to the Purchase	actions which for e Card policy ar	ound 4/21 did not provi nd procedure review pr	de a recei ocess hav	pt of the ring not	transactior been finalis	n. Additiona ed.	ally the		
High	The second high purchase reques			tability due to Business ult services.	s Support	carrying	our	In Pi	rogress		
Follow up Testi	ing										
	•	•		tions per service area on approval from the Fi	•		ertaken. Te	sting revie	wed two		
High				report identifying 3,519 tax reclaimable.	9 unrecond	ciled tra	nsactions	O	pen		
Follow up Testi											
	Follow up testing evidenced that between April and September 2018, 705 (£40,997.43) transactions were un-coded or unreconciled. Additionally audit could not evidence unreconciled transaction reports being sent out to authorising officers and/or service leads.										
High	(£500) and of the	ose, 6 items (669	%) worth £13,09	sactions being above to 99 did not evidence the al as per policy proced	relevant a				ed and rified		
Follow up Testi	ing										
Follow up testing were held on file		III five credit limit	increases in th	e current financial year	r had all th	e suppo	orting docun	nentation a	and emails		
Project Govern 144)	ance (Studio	Reasonable Assurance	Limited Assurance	4	ı	4	-		N/A		
Scope of Follow Up:											
Risk								atus			
High	The first high risk related to a project feasibility study being conducted in 2000, however after multiple changes to the project no further feasibility studies were undertaken to account for them.										
Follow up Testi	ng										

Proje	ect Name	Follow Up Opinion	Original Opinion	Original Number of Issues /Exceptions	Critical Risk	High Risk	Medium Risk	Low Risk	Follow Up Planned
board will be re	esponsible for reque	esting the origina	al business case	amme Board. If a proje e is reviewed. The Proje ending on the size and	ject Lifecy				
High	decision taken to	procure 3 diffe	rent contractors	internal minutes or do for the 3 distinct stage d complexities with the	es of the pi		nce the		sed and erified
Follow up Tes	sting								
	ng logs are part of the following the follow			art of the agreed Proje pject Manager.	ect Lifecycl	e guida	nce docume	ntation. T	he
High	The third high risk related to the significant timeframe of the project causing lost knowledge and loss of documentation, in addition, it is unclear if financial feasibility studies (other than one re fundraising targets) were conducted. Closed a Verifie								
Follow up Tes		,							
				Decisions & Lessons lo			cument for a	all projects	, making it
High	The fourth high rapproximately £3	risk relates to the 30m prior to con	e project having apletion. While a	significant increases i all the increases have s gative effect on the cou	n the budg sought and	et from d acquir			sed and erified
Follow up Tes	sting								
Gateway revie	ws form part of the	agreed Project N	Management Lif	ecycle, evidenced as p	part of the	follow u	p.		
High				estigated by the Contr or increase contract su		istrator,		In Pi	rogress
Follow up Tes	sting			_					
In conclusion, 2018.	the new project ma	nagement proce	sses have beer	actioned with implem	entation a	cross th	e organisation	on due in (October

Audits in Progress

	Project Name	Hub	Project Status	Delays	Projected Reporting Date	Revised Reporting Date	Comments
1.	Care Leavers	Operational (SD Children and Families)	Work in Progress	Yes (See Comments)	November 2018	TBC	This item of work is on hold pending implementation of the Council's internal action plan, following the recent Ofsted inspection.
2.	Family Matters Grant	Operational (SD Children and Families)	Work in Progress	None	April 2019	April 2019	This is a claim verification, which is required on a quarterly basis. Therefore this will remain 'work in progress' until the end of year.
3.	Social Media Surveillance Follow Up	Strategic (SD Legal & Governance)	Work in Progress				
4.	Solicitors Fees and Court Costs	Strategic (SD Legal & Governance)	Work in Progress				
5.	Tower Blocks	Operational (SD Growth)	Work in Progress				
6.	Child Sexual Exploitation & Missing Persons	Operational (SD Children and Families)	Work in Progress				
7.	Leaseholder Charges	Operational (SD Adults Housing & Communities)	Work in Progress				
8.	Learning and Development	Strategy (SD HR & Organisational Development)	Work in Progress				
9.	Health and Safety Follow Up	Strategy (SD HR & Organisational Development)	Work in Progress				

	Project Name	Hub	Project Status	Delays	Projected Reporting Date	Revised Reporting Date	Comments
10.	Strategic Contract Management Follow Up	Operational (SD Digital & Business Operations)	Work in Progress				
11.	Procurement Follow Up	Operational (SD Digital & Business Operations)	Work in Progress				
12.	Leisure Contract	Operational (SD Digital & Business Operations)	Work in Progress				
13.	Mobile Devices	Operational (SD Digital & Business Operations)	Work in Progress				
14.	Back up and DR	Operational (SD Digital & Business Operations)	Work in Progress				
15.	Stock Condition	Operational (SD Growth)	Work in Progress				
16.	Community Infrastructure Levy	Operational (SD Growth)	Work in Progress				
17.	Water Quality	Operational (SD Growth)	Work in Progress				
18.	CCTV	Operational (SD Growth)	Work in Progress				
19.	Appointeeship	Operational (SD Adults Housing & Communities)	Work in Progress				
20.	British Gas Contract Follow Up	Operational (SD Adults Housing & Communities)	Work in Progress				
21.	Direct Payments	Operational (SD Adults Housing & Communities)	Work in Progress				

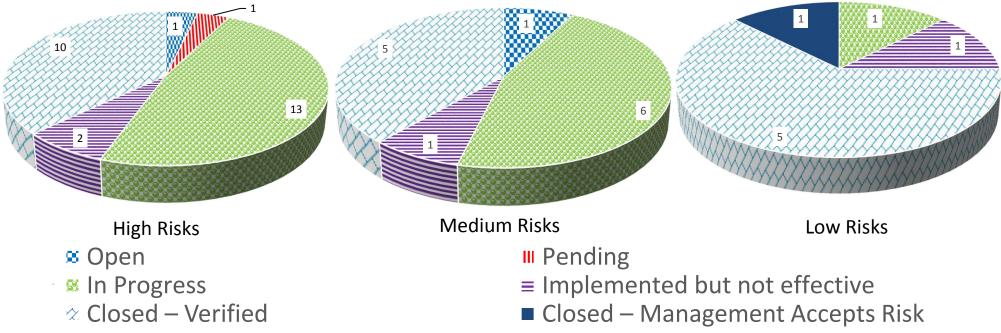
	Project Name	Hub	Project Status	Delays	Projected Reporting Date	Revised Reporting Date	Comments
22.	Children's Safeguarding	Operational (SD Children and Families)	Work in Progress				
23.	SEND Out of City Placements	Operational (SD Children and Families)	Work in Progress				
24.	Home to School Transport	Operational (SD Children and Families)	Work in Progress				
25.	Tranman	Operational (SD Transactional & Universal)	Work in Progress				
26.	Accounts Receivable	Strategy (SD Finance & Commercialisation)	Work in Progress				
27.	Treasury Management	Strategy (SD Finance & Commercialisation)	Work in Progress				
28.	Petty Cash	Strategy (SD Finance & Commercialisation)	Work in Progress				
29.	Income Collection	Strategy (SD Finance & Commercialisation)	Work in Progress				
30.	GDPR Public Health	Strategy (SD Public Health)	Work in Progress				
31.	Sexual Health Contract	Strategy (SD Public Health)	Work in Progress				

Exception Analysis to date



	Achievement of Strategic Objectives	Compliance	Effectiveness of Operations	Reliability & Integrity	Safeguarding of Assets	Total
Critical Risk						0
High Risk	9	11	5		5	30
Medium Risk	1	17	15		7	40
Low Risk -						
Improvement	2	4	3		1	10
Grand Total	12	32	23	0	13	80

Follow Up Analysis



	Open	Pending	In Progress	Implemented but not effective	Closed – Verified	Closed – Not Verified	Closed – Management Accepts Risk	Closed – No Longer Applicable
Critical Risk								
High Risk	1	1	13	2	10			
Medium Risk	1		6	1	5			
Low Risk			1	1	5		1	
Grand Total	2	1	20	4	20		1	

The Internal Audit Service follows up all audits where at least 1 high risk exception has been raised. These audits are followed up in the next financial year to allow for agreed actions to be sufficiently implemented. Any critical risk exceptions are followed up within 3 months due to the potential severity of the risks identified. The overall position of the exceptions followed up currently through 2018/19 shows that 42% have been closed and verified by audit, however 58% remain open and or are in progress.