

CITY OF CARDIFF COUNCIL CYNGOR DINAS CAERDYDD

AUDIT COMMITTEE:

19 January 2015

REPORT OF AUDIT & RISK MANAGER

AGENDA ITEM: 8.2

VALUE FOR MONEY AUDITS

Reason for this Report

1. To provide Members with an update on three value for money studies reported previously to Audit Committee, namely, agency spend, standby payments and home to office vehicle usage.

Background

2. In 2013 / 14 the Audit & Risk Manager reported to Senior Management on the work Internal Audit had undertaken on three value for Money exercises. Follow up work has been undertaken in these areas to assess progress.

Issues

3. Appendix A attached provides an updated position regards the three value for money exercises.
4. The Agency Managed Framework (Comensura) audit review identified weaknesses in internal controls which resulted in an overall assessment of "*limited assurance*". The Audit & Risk Manager emailed all Directors at the time of the initial review regarding the high spend on agency staff and the figures shown in the attached tables shows a significant reduction, although use of agency staff is still high in some directorates. The current position is outlined in the attached together with next steps. With regard to controls, enhancements were made to systems following the audit and improvement noted, although as the attached note suggests, there is still an issue with approving auto approved timesheets and Directors have been contacted regards the need to address this.
5. The Standby Payments review showed little change to reported figures for the previous year, in fact a slight increase was noted from 2012-13. Assurance will continue to be sought, through the Audit Relationship meetings with each Director,

4.CTC.CS.018	Issue 1	Date: Jan 13	Process Owner: Committee & Member Services Manager	Authorised: Deputy Committee & Member Services Manager	Page 1 of 2
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that these levels of spend are appropriate, sustainable and are being reviewed and effectively challenged.

6. It is acknowledged with a wide and diverse range of services that officers are required to be “on standby” outside normal office hours but 338 officers receiving payments is high and it is felt that there does seem to be potential for savings, if a more “joined up” corporate approach was adopted and this option should be explored by Directorates.
7. There has been slow progress regards Home to Office vehicle usage given the need to develop a corporate solution, but it is expected that a new process will be signed off soon and introduced to ensure a business case exists for vehicles driven back and for from home. It is positive that a Transport Working Group has been formed with all Directorates being represented and this matter along with many others around fleet management and driving standards is being progressed.

Reasons for Recommendations

8. To provide Members with an update on ongoing work on value for money work..

Legal Implications

9. There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

Financial Implications

10. There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

Recommendations

11. Members note the report.

Derek King

Audit & Risk Manager

Date 19 January 2015.

Appendix A – Briefing update

4.CTC.CS.018	Issue 1	Date: Jan 13	Process Owner: Committee & Member Services Manager	Authorised: Deputy Committee & Member Services Manager	Page 2 of 2
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