

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

28 JUNE 2012

PROGRESS ON 2012/13 INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN

Report of the Head of Internal Audit

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the progress made to date in delivering the 2012/13 Internal Audit Plan and any developments likely to impact on the Plan throughout the remainder of the financial year.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Members approved the 2012/13 Audit Plan at their meeting on the 19 April 2012. The total number of planned audit days for 2012/13 is 2,920 (of which 120 relate to external clients). The performance target for Veritau is to deliver 93% of the agreed Audit Plan.
- 2.2 This report provides details of how work on the 2012/13 Plan is progressing.

3.0 INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN PROGRESS BY 31 MAY 2012

- 3.1 The internal audit performance targets for 2012/13 have been set by the County Council's client officer. Details of these targets are given in the Annual Report of the Head of Internal Audit (**see Item 5 on this Agenda**). Progress against these performance targets, as at 31 May 2012, is detailed in **Appendix 1**.
- 3.2 Audit work has been focussed on concluding all the outstanding reviews from 2011/12, and most of those audits have now been issued in final. At the time of this report, only two audits from the 2012/13 audit plan have been completed and issued in final.

Computer Audit

- 3.3 The 2012/13 IT Audit Plan allows for 70 days of specialist IT audit work to be undertaken by PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PwC) in areas identified as high risk to the County Council. Planning for the 2012/13 programme of audits has commenced. PwC have also been finalising the IT audit work for 2011/12. All the audits in the 2011/12 Plan have either been issued in draft, and are therefore awaiting management comments, or have been finalised.

Contingency and Counter Fraud Work

- 3.4 Veritau auditors continue to handle cases of suspected fraud or malpractice. Such assignments are carried out in response to issues raised by staff or members of the public via the Whistleblower Hotline, or as a result of management raising concerns. Since the start of the current financial year, 3 cases of suspected malpractice or misappropriation have been referred to Veritau for investigation.

Information Governance

- 3.5 Veritau's Information Governance Team (IGT) continues to handle a significant number of information requests submitted under the Freedom of Information and Data Protection Acts. The number of FOI requests received continues to grow with a total of 178 requests received between 1 April and 31 May 2012 compared with 173 requests received during the corresponding period in 2011/12 (a 2.9% increase). The IGT is currently exceeding the performance response target of 95% with almost 99% of requests so far being answered within the statutory 20 day deadline. The IGT also coordinates the County Council's subject access requests (excluding social care) and has received 11 such requests between 1 April and 31 May 2012.
- 3.6 Veritau is also assisting with the implementation of the County Council's Information Governance Framework. The Corporate Information Governance Group (CIGG2) continues to meet regularly to progress policy development and implementation. Veritau's Client Relationship Manager and Information Governance Officer both attend these meetings. Encouraging progress continues to be made to address information governance matters at both a corporate and directorate level. Veritau auditors are also undertaking a programme of unannounced audit visits to County Council premises in order to assess staff awareness of the need to secure personal and sensitive information. The results of these compliance visits are reported back to CIGG2.

Variations to the 2012/13 Audit Plan

- 3.7 All proposed variations to the agreed Audit Plan arising as the result of emerging issues and/or requests from directorates are subject to a Change Control process. Where the variation exceeds 5 days then the change must be authorised by the client officer. Any significant variations will then be communicated to the Audit Committee for information.
- 3.8 No variations had been requested as at 31 May 2012.

4.0 **RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1 Members are asked to note the progress to date by Veritau Ltd in delivering the 2012/13 Internal Audit Plan.

Report prepared by Roman Pronyszyn, Client Relationship Manager, Veritau Ltd and presented by Max Thomas, Head of Internal Audit

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Background Documents: None

PROGRESS AGAINST 2012/13 PERFORMANCE TARGETS AS AT 31/05/2012

<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Milestone</i>	<i>Position at 31/05/2012</i>
To deliver 93% of the agreed Internal Audit Plan.	93% by 30/4/13	11.11%
To achieve a positive customer satisfaction rating of 95%	95% by 31/3/13	100%
To ensure 95% of Priority 1 recommendations made are agreed.	95% by 31/3/13	No P1 actions agreed as yet
To ensure 95% of FOI requests are answered within the Statutory deadline of 20 working days.	95% by 31/3/13	98.67%