

POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR LEICESTERSHIRE JOINT AUDIT, RISK & ASSURANCE PANEL

PAPER MARKED

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Report of	CHIEF CONSTABLE & CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER (OPCC)
Subject	INTERNAL AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS AND TRACKING - AUDITS UNDERTAKEN BY AUDITORS BAKER TILLY (FORMERLY RSM TENON)
Date	TUESDAY 28 JANUARY 2014 - 1.00 P.M.
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Purpose of Report

1. The following report provides the Panel with update progress responses from business owners in relation to 'High or Medium' priority audit recommendations determined for the period 2013/14 by external auditors Baker Tilly. It is understood that progress with 'Low' priority recommendations is not reported.
2. The number of 'High and Medium' recommendations so far for 2013/14 are as follows:

Priority of Recommendation	Number of Recommendations
High	0
Medium	13

Recommendation

3. For the panel to note the attached update on progress responses against each respective outstanding audit recommendation so far for 2013/14.

Summary

4. There are currently no 'High' priority recommendations. However, there are presently thirteen 'Medium' priority recommendations outstanding and being progressed.
5. Three recommendations relating to the HR Absence Management audit (see appendix A) have exceeded the December 2013 stated completion date. The remaining recommendations are currently within the stated target completion dates.

Implications

Financial : None

Legal : None

Equality Impact Assessment : None

Risks and Impact : Risk to efficiency and effectiveness of business functions where agreed recommendations are not implemented in thorough and timely manner.

Link to Police and Crime Plan : Transparency and accountability.

List of Appendices

Appendix A - Audit Recommendations

Background Papers

N/A

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Audit Recommendations

N ^o	Internal Audit Report	Audit Report Date
1	Payroll Provider Review No High or Medium recommendations.	5 th June 2013
2	Winsor Review - Payments for Unsocial Hours No Recommendations. The purpose of the review was to provide assurances on the application of the controls in place around the processing and payment of unsocial hours claims from Police Officers. As part of this review, completed one year later, Baker Tilly confirmed that the issues raised in their advisory review had been addressed and effective controls were in place.	12 th September 2013
3	HR – Absence Management Three Medium Recommendations. Recommendation 1.2 (a) Return to work interviews (RTWI) should be fully documented in all cases following a period of sickness absence. If referrals, recuperative / restricted plans, attendance plans or any formal capability procedures have also been completed, these can be referred to in the RTWI but this should remain the central record of the matters discussed. Update: Report by Mr Steve Smith, HR Business Solutions - Human Resources previously submitted at the December JARAP meeting. HR Business Partners and HR Practitioners have been briefed to re double their efforts in encouraging line managers to complete RTWI's in a timely fashion. Additionally, BCU/ Directorate Commanders' and Heads of Department have been requested to remind line managers at their SMT's of the importance and need to complete RTWI's in a timely manner. Stated target completion date December 2013. Recommendation 1.2 (b) Return to work Interviews should be carried out on the individuals first day back to work or at the earliest opportunity; this may mean that this is completed by another Manager to cover for annual leave for example, and in most cases this should be able to be arranged in advance providing the Line Manager is aware of the date of the individuals expected date of return. Update: See above comment. Also HR Practitioners have been briefed to include the second line manager in the email trail when they are chasing line managers and asking them to complete if for any reason the line manager isn't available. Stated target completion date December 2013.	12 th September 2013

	<p>Recommendation 1.4 Where employees are absent due to anxiety, stress, depression related condition; offers to refer individuals to Occupational Health should be clearly recorded by the Line Managers at the earliest opportunity, in line with the Sickness Absence Procedure.</p>	
	<p>Update: This is HR Business Solutions process anyway. However, HR Business Partners and HR Practitioners have been reminded of the need to chase line managers where this isn't being done in a timely manner.</p> <p>NB. We are currently taking a more risk assessed approach to referrals to occupational health and this does mean that on occasions if we or the line manager believes someone is returning to work very quickly a referral may not be required.</p> <p>Stated target completion date December 2013.</p>	
6	<p>Health and Safety</p>	<p>11th November 2013</p>
	<p>One Medium recommendation.</p>	
	<p>Recommendation 6. To ensure that the task to draw up the risk assessments required is progressed and completed. Once finalised these need to be effectively communicated and made accessible to staff for information.</p>	
	<p>Update: This requires Support Managers to finish drawing up task lists for police officers, police staff and volunteers in order that progress can be made with finalising the risk assessment process. When these are completed we can ensure that any new risk assessments that are needed are identified and completed. This work continues and good practice is shared at meetings with the Support Managers.</p>	
	<p>Stated target completion date March 2014.</p>	
7	<p>Zanzibar – (P2P) [Procure to Pay]</p>	<p>25th September 2013</p>
	<p>One Advisory Recommendation</p>	
	<p>Advisory Recommendation: From our coverage we found the following aspects of actual controls are yet to be determined and actioned. We acknowledge these issues are scheduled to be actioned prior to implementation, but have itemised the areas covered in our scope and have highlighted areas where work is still in progress. We have made one overall recommendation to ensure these aspects are taken forward and included in the process leading through to full implementation. The issues highlighted include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The need to ensure the P2P local Procedures are made available to system users as soon as practically possible after initial training is completed. ▪ To determine / confirm actual password requirements/timeframes for changes etc. ▪ To determine actual tolerance levels to be established for matching of orders to invoices. ▪ To confirm what exception reports will be required to be run the system to ensure all required errors / potential anomalies will be sufficiently highlighted for review and resolution. ▪ To progress plans through to confirmation of requirements for completion of / monitoring of payments and associated validation, reconciliations / control accounts set ups, so to ensure that the required control framework is established and adhered to once the system goes live. 	

	<p>Update: As identified in the advisory review, Zanzibar (the Force P2P system) remains in the implementation phase. The items identified by Baker Tilly as requiring consideration prior to go-live <u>will</u> be considered and an appropriate course of action taken. Further conversations will take place with Baker Tilly as we progress towards go-live, accompanied by further updates into JARAP as required.</p> <p>Process notes and procedures have been drafted in conjunction with staff and are being reviewed to ensure completeness. The physical use of the P2P system is described in the comprehensive user manual produced by Proserve whilst the processes within Accountancy & Budgeting are being written to address the remaining technical challenges that need to be overcome. In overcoming the challenges, consideration is being given to the value for money that a software fix represents versus the practicalities of a manual work-around. On balance, the most appropriate solution on a case-by-case basis will be adopted.</p> <p>Some limited “live” testing has taken place in controlled conditions and with agreed temporary processes in place. These transactions were on the P2P side only and have been <u>manually</u> entered into Sage Line 500. The “live” testing was considered vital to allow review of how the ordering processes works in reality with a supplier willing to assist us.</p> <p>10.01.14 update – Status unchanged due to capacity/resource issues and the priority of setting next year’s budget.</p>	
8	<p>Change Programme</p> <p>One Medium Recommendation.</p> <p>Recommendation 1.15 In order for the organisation to benefit from further change programmes and Continuous Improvement projects, management should assess the capacity and capabilities of the existing team and consider investing in extra resource in order to review and work with staff to identify savings which will have a long lasting benefit and improve the workings of the organisation.</p> <p>The Change Team are already reviewing this matter and a Business Case is under development for additional support to enhance capability and capacity. It is envisaged that this will ensure enhanced provision by April 2014.</p> <p>10.01.14 update – A capability and capacity assessment was carried out in relation to the Change Team. This was validated through the review completed by an external consultant when looking at the force ICT options. The team requires increased capacity concerning programme management, and also external assistance to undertake Priority Based Budgeting and the transformational work stream. A business case was presented to the Change Team outlining the need for this support and the options available. This has been submitted to the OPCC for a funding decision. The aim is for this to be in place in the new financial year</p> <p>Stated target completion date April 2014.</p>	6 th November 2013

9	Risk Management	18 th October 2013
Two Medium Recommendations.		
Recommendation 1.2 – Force: Plans to be progressed to introduce a series of workshops for staff to improve the awareness, identification and management of risk within the Force.		
Update Force: There is to be a workshop at the February 2014 SORB to include identification and management of risks. All Senior Managers should be present. This is a repeat of the training and risk identification exercise at the Feb 2013 SORB. Stated target completion date February 2014.		
Recommendation 1.3 Force and OPCC - As part of the current Assurance Mapping Exercise both the Force and the OPCC should undertake a review of each mitigating control, for a risk, to identify if there are any material forms of measurable assurance that could be relied on to validate if the control is being effectively managed and operating correctly.		
Update Force: The SORB ToR state one aim is: <i>“To identify, analyse and prioritise the strategic risks facing the Force; ensuring that controls are identified and correctly applied.”</i> High priority risks, risks registered since the previous SORB and risks of note are reviewed at each SORB, with the controls being examined. Quantifying whether a control for most risks is effective is problematic as a lot of risks are reputational and somewhat subjective. Update OPCC: A review of each mitigating control will be undertaken by the Chief Finance Officer regularly. Stated Implementation – Since commencement of SORB.		
10	Publication Scheme	26 th September 2013
Five Advisory Recommendations		
Recommendation 3.1 The OPCC should include Section 7 (Services I offer) of the Publication Scheme requirements of the Freedom of Information Act as a sub-section on the OPCC’s Publication Scheme page.		
Update: All policing services for which a charge can be made (under ACPO’s Fees and Charges guidelines) are legally the responsibility of the PCC, details of these are published and maintained on the main Police website, a link to the relevant page will be included on the PCC’s website. The PCC does not provide any services aside from this.		
Recommendation 3.2 The OPCC should ensure that information published as part of its Publication Scheme includes details of when it was last updated. (See Appendix A for details)		
Update: Better Times, who administer the website, have been instructed to add ‘last updated’ information on the publication scheme page introduction – 14.1.14. This will also apply to all documents placed on the website e.g. expenses of the Commissioner which in future will include the line at the bottom saying ‘updated on’.		

	<p>Recommendation 3.3 The OPCC should ensure that the APCC publication scheme requirements are met in full and all required information is published on the OPCC website, and made available to the public (See Appendix A for details).</p>	
	<p>Update: Work was undertaken late in 2013 to redesign this section of the website and to meet all the APCC requirements. This has now been completed. There is some further work to be undertaken regarding the outcome of Stage 2 transfers and any recommendations made by the Information Commissioners office, when known.</p>	
	<p>Recommendation 3.5 The OPCC should ensure that all links to sources of information within the Publication Scheme are active and direct the reader to the correct and up to date information. (See Appendix A for details)</p>	
	<p>Update: This was completed in December 2013 during a revision of the website. There is now one central page and where information is held elsewhere on the site there are links embedded which take the public to the relevant page, the other pages are updated as and when needed and the links take the reader to the most recent version of the page. As above, the information included will henceforth include the date so the public can see it is the most recent information.</p>	
	<p>Recommendation 3.6 To improve accessibility the OPCC should ensure that all relevant information is included within the OPCC's Publication Scheme website page, and include links to information held on the other areas of the website where necessary.</p>	
	<p>Update: As part of the redesign of the website in December 2013 the publication scheme is now one central page and where information is held elsewhere on the site there are links embedded which take the public to the relevant page. Beside each heading the link reads 'Link to relevant page'</p>	
	<p>Recommendation 3.7 To improve accessibility of information, the OPCC could consider creating sub-pages within its Publication Scheme page on the website, each covering one section of the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act.</p>	
	<p>Update: There is currently one page split into sections with headings and with links. It may require some research as to whether subpages would be more accessible than the information being in one place but under headed sections. We will undertake discussions with our website administrators as to what their previous experiences are having designed multiple websites.</p>	
11	<p>General Ledger</p>	<p>2nd December 2013</p>
	<p>Currently in Draft No High or Medium recommendations.</p>	

12	Collaboration (to be completed as part of a joint review with the East Midlands)	13 th December
Five Medium Recommendations.		
<p>Recommendation 1: The principles of collaborative activity should be reviewed to ensure that they remain appropriate, given the governance changes and funding cuts that have taken place within the sector, over the last few years. Ideally, there should be specific outcomes for collaborative activity, in order for the achievement of the unit to be transparent and for the regional Forces and Police and Crime Commissioners to clearly understand the benefits that have been received, by collaboration.</p> <p>As the forces across the region, as indeed nationally, have developed local policing plans, there should be something similar for the collaboration.</p> <p>The document (Corporate Plan) could be used to include the Vision, Values, Priorities (opportunity to link to the regional objectives set by Commissioners and any other objectives) and Delivery (sets out how reporting will take place, achievement of outcomes and effective actions).</p>		
<p>Update: Agreed.</p> <p>This is on-going. Regional forces are individually considering and reviewing their position in regards to collaboration. A report is to be presented to the PCC Board on 18th December 2013.</p> <p>Update 10.1.14 – regional forces and PCCs agreed a vision document at PCCs' Board on 18/12/13. Idea of a regional Corporate Plan rejected.</p>		
<p>Recommendation 2: The same format should be used for each Business Case, clearly stating the author, to assist consistent scrutiny and challenge. The Business Plan should include specific objectives and priorities of the project. For each objective the following should be detailed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Details / Purpose (why / high risk on risk registers) b) Cost improvements c) Capital Funding d) Key risks and management (taken from key risks) e) Summary financial plan f) Impact on Workforce g) Summarised capacity plans <p>The Business Plan, sections e, f & g need to be completed by the individual forces, using a set definition for all costings and savings, to ensure there is consistent approach in reporting the comparative data. The data that is included should be robustly verified to provide assurance that the basis for the Business Plan or project is robust, to benefit all those involved in the collaboration.</p> <p>Update 10.1.14 - All projects subject to Business cases from 1st April 2014 will take cognisance of these suggestions.</p>		
<p>Update: Agreed.</p> <p>Stated target completion date March 2014.</p> <p>Update 10.1.14 - All projects subject to Business cases from 1st April 2014 will take cognisance of these suggestions.</p>		

	<p>Recommendation 3: The benefits that are included within the Business Plan should be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Timely. There should be specific measurable deliverables, with a target date to be able to ascertain if the benefit originally identified has been realised.</p> <p>Update: Agreed.</p> <p>Stated target completion date March 2014.</p> <p>Update 10.1.14 - All projects subject to Business cases from 1st April 2014 will take cognisance of these suggestions.</p>
	<p>Recommendation 4: The actual costs that are recorded within the Business Case should be broken down to provide clarity and transparency. Furthermore, it would be useful to include a definition of the costs that are being collated, to ensure consistency and understanding across all the forces to provide assurances that each force is including the correct cost requirements. In addition, the costs that are included within the Business Plan should be robustly checked and confirmed. This check and confirmation should be documented as part of the process. Furthermore, as part of this consideration, it may be beneficial to review the funding formula that is used as part of the business case and confirm that it remains appropriate. Other forces utilise a formula that also considers the demand impact and this may be something that could be considered and reviewed, moving forward.</p> <p>Update: Agreed.</p> <p>Stated target completion date March 2014.</p> <p>Update 10.1.14 - All projects subject to Business cases from 1st April 2014 will take cognisance of these suggestions.</p>
	<p>Recommendation 5: It is an essential part of the project management process to complete a final closure report, ultimately a 12 month review. The report will provide assurances that the project has met its original objectives and continues to provide for an effective and efficient approach. Where this is not the case, the report provides the opportunity to highlight any issues and provides the option to reassess and realign operations (including officers in kind) accordingly.</p> <p>Update: Agreed.</p> <p>Implemented</p>

13	Payroll (including pensions and expenses)	7 th January 2014
One Medium Recommendation.		
<p>Recommendation 1.1 The accepted risks around the processes for additional payments should be clearly documented (including non-checking of appropriateness of authorising signatures) and this should outline how each of the risks are being mitigated, managed to an acceptable level or tolerated.</p>		
<p>Update: On average 3,250 additional payments are processed per month. Due to the number of supervisors authorising payments it is not feasible to maintain a list of authorised signatories for claims to be checked against. We have been aware of this risk for a number of years and accept it from an organisational perspective. The Finance Department has been requested to review the requirement for authorised signatories on claim forms as part of the 'Reducing Bureaucracy' project and this work is currently underway. Any changes to the current payment system will be fully documented setting out how the risks are being mitigated, prior to any amendments being implemented.</p>		
<p>Stated target completion date 28th February 2014.</p>		
14	Budget Setting, Control, Monitoring and Reporting	9 th January 2014
<p>Currently Draft No High or Medium recommendations.</p>		