

# Business Bulletin

## **Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee**

**10.00am, Tuesday, 14 June 2022**

Teams Meeting

# Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee

Convener:	Members:	Contact:
To be appointed	Councillor Dixon Councillor Miller Councillor Mowat Councillor Nicolson Councillor Parker Councillor Frank Ross Councillor Rust Councillor Thornley Councillor Younie Vacancy x 2	<a href="#">Rachel Gentleman</a> Committee Officer 0131 529 4107

Recent news	Background/Contact
<p><a href="#">First Line Governance and Assurance Model</a></p> <p>Rolling Actions Log – Action 8</p> <p><b>Education and Children’s Services</b> – The Operations Manager started on 7 February 2022. This new role is currently working on the implementation of audit actions.</p> <p><b>Corporate Services</b> - The Directorate Assurance Officer is currently focussing on Internal Audit activity and the prioritisation of assurance activities for the Directorate. Following funding for the additional roles within Legal and Assurance being approved to assist with development and delivery of the new framework, three new governance officers have started within the Governance team.</p> <p><b>Place</b> – The Operations Manager started working in the Place Directorate on 1 November 2021 continues to work on the prioritisation and implementation of assurance activities, with a continued focus on Internal Audit management actions.</p> <p><b>Health and Social Care Partnership</b> – The Directorate Assurance Officer started on the 7 April 2022 and is working on the prioritisation and implementation of assurance activities with a continued focus on Internal Audit management actions.</p> <p><b>Framework development</b></p>	<p><a href="#">Nick Smith</a>,</p> <p>Service Director: Legal and Assurance Division, Corporate Services Directorate</p> <p>Tel: 0131 529 4377</p>

It was originally hoped that the Governance and Assurance roles would be in place to enable design of the assurance reporting framework which services will operate to be complete by June 2022. However, the impact of the Council 22 elections and substantial increase in levels of whistleblowing have meant that these tasks have had to take priority.

The design is now expected to be complete by 31 October 2022, with the first cycle of reporting through the relevant risk committees expected in early 2023. However, as noted above, assurance activity is already taking place within directorates.

[City of Edinburgh Council - 2020/21 Annual Audit Report to the Council and the Controller of Audit](#)

Rolling Actions Log – Action 13.2

It was requested at GRBV on 9 November 2021 that the Implementation of Best Value Assurance Review recommendations be reported to each meeting of GRBV under the Business Bulletin to monitor progress towards completion dates. Please see the details provided below.

[Hayley Barnett](#),

Corporate Governance  
Manager, Legal and  
Assurance Division,  
Corporate Services  
Directorate

Tel: 07768 838 031

## **Best Value Assurance Audit Status Update – June 2022**

### **GRBV Business Bulletin Best Value Assurance Audit Response Summary Update**

Members should note that the June progress table containing detailed updates under each key recommendation is available on the GRBV MS Teams Channel.

Key update:

- While the Council has approved a balanced revenue budget for 2022/23, there are significant financial challenges going forward. Current projections indicate a need to deliver at least £63m of recurring savings in 2023/24, increasing to £144m over the five-year period to 2026/27. The grant funding and other planning assumptions underlying these gaps will be reviewed following the publication of the Scottish Government's Resource Spending Review on 31 May.

In recognising the urgency of this requirement, Directorates have been asked to develop potential savings options, captured by means of a standard template detailing service and performance impacts, risks and dependencies, with reference to the priorities set out in the Council's business plan. These proposals will be the subject of a process of co-design between the incoming administration and officers and form the basis of planned public consultation in Autumn 2022.

- An update on progress in developing these options and the outcome of the review of financial planning assumptions will be reported to the Finance and Resources Committee on 16 June

- The Council's Performance was considered at the February meeting of the Policy and Sustainability Committee. Commencing in March, Service Teams will undertake a review of the year 1 annual plans and performance. This will inform the development of annual plans for 22/23 at directorate, divisional and service team level. The implementation of directorate, divisional and service team scorecards, dashboard and action tracers is in progress.
- The Council is currently reviewing the EFQM (excellence model) methodology and toolsets for self-evaluation.
- Work on the medium term and long term response to supporting elected members to take advantage of learning and development opportunities provided by the Council continues. The initial training analysis with elected members pre-election is complete and informed the development of the 8 week induction programme which is now well underway with positive feedback. An evaluation to inform the further autumn and ongoing programme will be carried out. All elected members will also have access to mylearninghub where all materials will be stored and members can use this to continually enhance their personal learning and development.
- An updated version of Edinburgh by Numbers and Locality Profiles was published in February/early March.
- The first review of the Council's Consultation Policy has begun, involving stakeholders and colleagues. This will report to the Policy and Sustainability Committee in Autumn 2022.
- The Council and community councils continue to implement the actions identified in the collaborative framework. Development of the partnership element of the work is ongoing with progress to be reported to the Edinburgh Partnership Board, following meetings with the EACC. A progress report on the framework was approved by the Culture and Communities Committee on 1 February 2022 and was considered by GBRV at the meeting on 8 March 2022.
- Work on the Edinburgh Partnership Empowerment Plan is ongoing. A phased programme of engagement with stakeholders is planned between February and July 2022.