

# Business Bulletin

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

**10.00am, Tuesday, 22 November 2022**

Teams Meeting

# Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee

| Convener:   | Members:   | Contact:  |
|---|--|---|
| <p>Councillor Kate Campbell</p>  | <p>Councillor Jule Bandel<br/>           Councillor Marco Biagi<br/>           Councillor Katrina Faccenda<br/>           Councillor Stephen Jenkinson<br/>           Councillor Adam McVey<br/>           Councillor Claire Miller<br/>           Councillor Joanna Mowat<br/>           Councillor Jason Rust<br/>           Councillor Edward Thornley<br/>           Councillor Lewis Younie</p> | <p><a href="#">Natalie Le Couteur</a><br/>           Committee Officer<br/>           0131 529 4107</p> |

| Recent news  | Background/Contact   |
|--|--|
| <p><a href="#">First Line Governance and Assurance Model</a></p> <p>Rolling Action Log</p> <p><b>Education and Children’s Services</b> – The Operations Manager continues to focus on risk and assurance across the Directorate, maintaining monthly Internal Audit update meetings with the relevant colleagues and ensuring audits are prioritised, updated and implemented. Risk and Assurance updates are communicated to SMT regularly to ensure awareness and understanding.</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. The governance officers are progressing with developing the governance and assurance framework.</p> <p><b>Place</b> – The Operations Manager continues to work on the prioritisation and implementation of assurance activities, with a continued focus on Internal Audit management actions and the Risk Framework.</p> <p><b>Health and Social Care Partnership</b> – The Directorate Assurance Officer is working on the implementation of assurance activities with an ongoing focus on Internal Audit management actions and rollout of the Partnership Risk Framework.</p> | <p><a href="#">Nick Smith</a>,<br/>           Service Director: Legal and Assurance Division, Corporate Services Directorate</p> <p>Tel: 0131 529 4377</p> |

## **Governance and Assurance Second Line Framework Development**

As noted previously, development of the second line governance and assurance reporting framework has been delayed due to other activities taking priority, principally whistleblowing and is now due for completion by March 2023. However, design continues and Committee should note that assurance activity is already taking place within directorates.

## **Governance Manager Recruitment**

The Governance Officers posts were advertised in November and are going through the recruitment process.

## **Action 8.1 (3) from GRBV Committee on 11 October 2022. To agree committee would be advised, via the business bulletin, of progress relating to organisational risk maturity –**

The Risk Management Team are working directly with Directorates through quarter 4 to conduct a risk maturity assessment. This will help to confirm how well developed and embedded risk management practice is within the Council. This will also highlight areas for development where appropriate. This is timely, ahead of a review of the Council current Risk Management Policy.

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

### **Rolling Action Log**

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 to monitor progress towards completion dates. Please see the details provided below.

GRBV Business Bulletin Best Value Assurance Audit Response Summary Update – Members should note that the November progress table containing detailed updates under each key recommendation is available on the GRBV MS Teams

### **[Gavin King](#)**

Head of Democracy, Governance and Resilience, Legal and Assurance Division, Corporate Services Directorate

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### **[Chris Lawson](#)**

Head of Health and Safety, Legal and Assurance Division, Corporate Services Directorate

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### **[Gavin King](#)**

Head of Democracy, Governance and Resilience, Legal and Assurance Division, Corporate Services Directorate

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Channel. The summary below only covers key updates from the period October - November.

- An update on the Council's financial planning assumption was considered by the Finance and Resources Committee on 10 November 2022, indicating an increase in the savings required to £76.5m in 2023/24 and £158.6m by 2026/7. A number of further risks were highlighted, particularly those in respect of demand-led services, inflation and the Council's level of grant funding settlement.
- A range of proposed measures, including corporate mitigations, budget realignment and savings was presented for consideration. Alongside initial tactical savings developed through the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP), if all approved, these measures would reduce the estimated residual funding gap in 2023/24 to £21.2m and £110.1m in 2026/27 albeit with a need to provide for an additional contingency of at least £10m against the risks. A further update will be provided to Committee on 26 January 2023. This report will include an update on the development of further longer-term strategic and cross-cutting workstreams to develop proposals to contribute towards subsequent years' savings requirements.
- The Consultation Policy has been updated following review, and the process has been subject to Internal Audit. All of the recommendations of the internal audit are being taken forward and will further strengthen consultation policy and practice across the Council throughout 2023.
- During 2022/23 a new team has been put in place to progress the Council's poverty prevention work. This work is helping to build capacity for Council engagement with communities and third sector groups in relation to poverty prevention and city responses to the cost of living crisis.
- Work on the Edinburgh Partnership Empowerment Strategy is ongoing with a programme of stakeholder engagement currently in hand. It is anticipated that the final strategy and implementation plan will be presented to the Edinburgh Partnership Board by June 2023.
- A further constructive meeting was held in November to discuss progress and take forward the agreed CEC/EACC improvement plan. This work is ongoing with actions in the plan running through to 2024.
- Consideration of the revised Local Outcome Improvement Plan will take place at the Culture and Communities Committee in December.