

# Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 28 November 2023

## Outdoor Infrastructure (PL2312) – Service Area Response

Executive/routine  
Wards

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 To note the service area response and actions taken to date to address risks raised in the Internal Audit report.

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## Outdoor Infrastructure (PL2312) – Service Area Response

### 2. Executive Summary

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- 2.1 This report provides a summary of progress made by the Place directorate in relation to the internal audit into the health and safety of the Council's outdoor infrastructure.

### 3. Background

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- 3.1 The City of Edinburgh Council owns assets and infrastructure across the city and is responsible for ensuring that they are suitably maintained to ensure public health and safety, in compliance with relevant legislation and guidance. Internal Audit's review focused on cemeteries, public art and play parks and testing was undertaken between December 2022 and March 2023.

### 4. Main report

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#### **Service Area Response to Internal Audit Findings**

- 4.1 Management accepts the findings of the internal audit into outdoor infrastructure and welcomes its recommendations. Management actions have been put in place to ensure that identified risks are brought within appetite and that appropriate controls are maintained or developed where necessary.
- 4.2 The Place Senior Management Team will continue to monitor management actions from this audit and is committed to ensuring that joined-up solutions in relation to safety documents (including risk assessments), inspections, and hazard identification are achieved. Thematic risks have been identified and are being managed through the relevant Place risk processes.
- 4.3 In the period between audit sampling and publishing of the report, remedial actions have been progressed, including the proactive improvement and development of existing and new controls. Input has been sought from relevant service areas to provide peer review and ensure that controls meet necessary requirements.

## Progress with Management Actions

4.4 The audit report contained 12 recommendations across five findings. Agreed management actions are outlined below alongside progress updates.

Action title	Summary of action	Status update
1.1: Public Art Register	A register of all art on CEC land to be created including H&S guidance for art not directly commissioned by the Council.	A public art register has been produced and the remaining elements of this action will be presented to Committee as part of the Public Art Strategy.
1.2: Risk based inspection programme for public art	Introduce a risk-based inspection programme for public art and statues on CEC land.	Discussions in relation to resourcing and ownership of the inspection programme are ongoing.
1.3: Process for commissioning public art	Outline the process for commissioning public art.	This will be articulated through the Public Art Strategy (see 1.1).
2.1: Update of cemeteries risk assessments	Update of cemeteries risk assessments.	Actioned
2.2: Procedure for reviewing and monitoring safety management documents	Produce a procedure for reviewing and monitoring safety management documents (Bereavement Services).	Actioned
3.1: Process for unauthorised scaffolding	Produce a procedure for dealing with contractors (authorised and unauthorised) in cemeteries.	Actioned
4.1 a): Update of welding risk assessment	Update of welding risk assessments.	Actioned
4.1 b): Workplace inspections programme	Design workplace inspections programme.	This action will be implemented on a phased basis.
4.2: Revisions of risk assessments and associated training	Circulate risk assessments and organise toolbox talks (welding).	Updated risk assessments have been circulated and toolbox talks for the welding workshop scheduled for early 2024.

5.1: Consideration of resources for playground inspections	Consider the level of resource required.	This will be addressed through organisational review (due to start in 2024).
5.2: Update of Play Inspection procedures	Review existing play inspection procedures document.	This will be reviewed and updated as required in consultation with Corporate Health and Safety colleagues.
5.3: Reporting critical and high risks to management	Reporting of critical and high risks to management.	Critical and high risks are already monitored through the use of an asset management system. An output of these risks will be reported regularly to management going forward to provide additional visibility.

## 5. Next Steps

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- 5.1. Evidence of completion of actions will be uploaded to the Team Central platform for review by Internal Audit colleagues. Actions may be subject to future checks as part of annual audit plan to ensure that controls remain in place and effective.

## 6. Financial impact

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- 6.1. The actions in this report have no impact on Council budgets, however, the strengthening of controls identified will assist with the implementation of sound financial governance and help protect against risk of fraud.

## 7. Equality and Poverty Impact

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- 7.1 None.

## 8. Climate and Nature Emergency Implications

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- 8.1 None.

## 9. Risk, policy, compliance, governance and community impact

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- 9.1 The audit management actions referenced in this report will contribute to a strong system of risk management and compliance through a strengthening of controls and procedures.

## **10. Background reading/external references**

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10.1 Health and Safety – Outdoor Infrastructure (PL2312) – Internal Audit Report.

## **11. Appendices**

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11.1 None.