

**To the Chair and Members of the
AUDIT COMMITTEE**

**REVIEW OF PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING EXTERNAL INSPECTION
RECOMMENDATIONS**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report provides an update on the report presented to the Audit Committee at its last meeting in September 2015, about progress made in implementing external inspection recommendations across the whole authority.
2. This report reflects the Council's progress in terms of:
 - a) The number of external inspections broken down by directorate; and
 - b) The number of recommendations that have been completed or are outstanding for each inspection.

UPDATE AT NOVEMBER 2015

3. Internal audit has carried out further work to verify the status of recommendations previously reported in the September 2015 report to the Audit Committee.
4. The current position as detailed in **Appendix A** shows there had been 160 recommendations made in inspection reports relating to the whole authority since 2010. Of these:
 - 121 recommendations have been fully implemented
 - 19 were part implemented / in progress
 - 15 were in progress but late – Oct 15
 - 5 where the current status is unknown – *these are for two children's centres who originally reported that these issues had been raised (for the first external inspection AC report), however no further information was provided as to whether these had been implemented or not. These were not referred to in the first audit committee report. These are now considerably out of date and are not being pursued as the current Inspection cycle for Children's Centres is now on hold subject to a national consultation about a future framework as detailed in 6d.*
5. All recommendations included as fully implemented have now been verified by Internal Audit as complete. Also, the outstanding recommendation for Inspection of Safeguarding and Looked After Children (2011) has now been completed.
6. Appendix B details monitoring arrangements for those actions not yet fully complete. Notable items are

- a. Local Authority Arrangements for Supporting School Improvement - The plan to address the recommendations has been submitted to DfES and the team are awaiting approval from the DfES to the proposals.
 - b. Lord Carlile - A suitable compensatory action has been identified and will be progressed
 - c. Moorends Children's Centre - a Recovery Plan has been developed for the centre that addresses the areas for improvement. This is informed by a newly drafted Self Evaluation Form (SEF). There were 15 recommendations of which 5 are currently outstanding.
 - d. Other Children's Centres - The current Inspection cycle for Children's Centres is now on hold subject to a national consultation about a future framework. This has provided management with the opportunity to embed a new performance framework that has been developed to ensure that there is management oversight and scrutiny of all SEFs and plans for those centres that are remaining subject to future inspections both the staffing and structure of the service have altered significantly since 2010-2012, the original recommendations for the remaining centres are out of date and no longer relevant. Accordingly the 14 actions outstanding from the original 50 recommendations are not being actioned.
 - e. Matrix Quality Standard and Skills Funding Agency for Adult, Family & Community Learning & Apprenticeships - post inspection action plans have been developed from these inspections which will be reviewed at the end of each academic year. The actions will be RAG rated every term. There is also a governance group which monitors the post inspection action plan and progress against it.
7. This represents a favourable position for the Council in that all outstanding actions have been verified as having appropriate actions plans and processes in place, and have management oversight over their implementation.
 8. Internal Audit will work with the Performance Policy and Research team to ensure there is strong corporate awareness, oversight and monitoring of external inspections.

RECOMMENDATIONS

9. The Audit Committee is asked to:
 - note the updated position in respect of progress on External Inspection recommendations.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

10. Effective oversight through the Audit Committee adds value to the Council operations in managing its risks and achieving its key priorities.

BACKGROUND

11. This report provides the Audit Committee with information on the outcomes from external and inspection work and allows the Committee to discharge its responsibility for monitoring external audit and inspection activity.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

12. This is not applicable to this report.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

	Outcomes	Implications
	<p>All people in Doncaster benefit from a thriving and resilient economy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Be a strong voice for our veterans</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster's vital services</i> 	<p>This applies to all priorities shown.</p> <p>The effective implementation of external inspection recommendations is key to ensuring that the citizens of Doncaster receive a value for money, fit for purpose service from the Council that supports all Council priorities.</p>
	<p>People live safe, healthy, active and independent lives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i> 	<p>Monitoring of external inspection recommendations adds value to the organisation through systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of the Council's services. The work undertaken to monitor our external inspection recommendations improves and strengthens governance arrangements within the Council and in some cases those with our partners.</p>
	<p>People in Doncaster benefit from a high quality built and natural environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Creating Jobs and Housing</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Safeguarding our Communities</i> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Bringing down the cost of living</i> 	
	<p>All families thrive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mayoral Priority: Protecting Doncaster's vital services</i> 	
	<p>Council services are modern and value for money.</p>	
	<p>Working with our partners we will provide strong leadership and governance.</p>	

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

13. The implementation of inspection recommendations is a response to identified risks and hence is an effective risk management action.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

14. The implementation of inspection recommendations is a response to identified risks and hence is an effective risk management action.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

15. There are no specific costs arising from this report.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

16. There are no specific Human Resources implications arising from this report.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS

17. There are no specific technology implications arising from this report.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

18. The Council has a legal obligation under the Public Sector Equality Duty to consider how different people will be affected by their activity and service. Equalities and Due Regard issues will be considered as part of the individual action plans developed to address external inspection recommendations and as a result a Due Regard statement has not been completed for this process.

CONSULTATION

19. There is consultation with managers at the outset, throughout and at the conclusion of individual inspections in order to ensure that the work undertaken and findings are relevant to the risks identified and that they are accurate.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

20. Relevant Inspection Reports

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