



Dorset Waste Partnership Joint Committee

Date of Meeting	17 th January 2019
Officer	Senior Auditor, SWAP Internal Audit Services
Subject of Report	Internal Audit Progress Report – January 2019
Executive Summary	<p>For the 2018/19 financial year, it has been agreed that Internal Audit will report to the Joint Committee twice a year, providing an update on progress and any significant findings of audit work. This is the second of these reports.</p> <p>Since the last progress report during 2018/19, we have completed one piece of audit work for DWP:</p> <p>Value for Money – Benchmarking</p> <p>The details and findings of this review are contained in the report.</p>
Impact Assessment:	<p>Equalities Impact Assessment:</p> <p>This report contains no new proposals and has no equalities implications.</p>
	<p>Use of Evidence:</p> <p>This report is based upon our recent audit findings and discussions with the DWP Director and Senior Management Team.</p>
	<p>Budget:</p> <p>This report has no budget implications.</p>
	<p>Risk Assessment:</p>

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	<p>Having considered the risks associated with this decision using the County Council's approved risk management methodology, the level of risk has been identified as:</p> <p>Current Risk: LOW Residual Risk: LOW</p>
	<p>Other Implications:</p> <p>No other implications have been identified.</p>
<p>Recommendation</p>	<p>The DWP Joint Committee is asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the internal audit progress 2. Note the approach being taken to agree planned internal audit activity for the 2019/20 financial year
<p>Reason for Recommendation</p>	<p>The Joint Committee along with the Senior Management Team (SMT) have oversight of the Partnership's performance, budget and governance. As part of this, SMT and Joint Committee will want to ensure that there is a robust system of internal control within DWP. Internal Audit provides an independent and objective opinion on the control environment by evaluating its effectiveness.</p>
<p>Appendices</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Background Papers</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Report Originator and Contact</p>	<p>Name: Kerry Brown Tel: 07890650081 Email: kerry.brown@swapaudit.co.uk</p>

1. Background

- 1.1 The Internal Audit service for Dorset County Council is provided by SWAP Internal Audit Services. As part of this service, an allocation of days is set aside to provide internal audit services to the Dorset Waste Partnership (DWP). Internal Audit provides an independent and objective opinion on the control environment by evaluating its effectiveness. SWAP work is completed to comply with the International Professional Practices Framework of the Institute of Internal Auditors, further guided by interpretation provided by the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS). The work of the partnership is guided by the Internal Audit Charter which is reviewed annually.
- 1.2 For 2018/19, it has been agreed that Internal Audit will report to the Joint Committee twice a year, providing an update on progress and any significant findings of audit work. This is the second of these reports.

2. Progress Update

Value for Money

- 2.1 At the time of the last DWP Joint Committee, this 2018/19 audit had not commenced. We have now finalised this piece of work and issued a position statement.
- 2.2 A request was received by Internal Audit from DWP to carry out a benchmarking exercise, collating information to enable a comparison of costs to similar services in other Councils.
- 2.3 As DWP are unique in providing all waste services through a partnership it was difficult to obtain similar data for benchmarking. Data can be interpreted in different ways and the contents cannot always be verified. Added to this, costs are often accounted for differently across Councils.
- 2.4 In conclusion, there is insufficient data for SWAP to form a definitive opinion as to whether DWP are providing value for money to its partners. However, it would appear from the limited data received from the Somerset Waste Partnership that, looking at relative costs, the DWP costs appear favourable.

Update on Value for Money

- 2.5 All of the contact details and data received was shared with the Finance and Commercial Manager throughout the audit to enable further work to be undertaken if desired. Since the position statement was issued the following costs per household have been obtained by DWP, which again confirms that their costs are favourable. The Finance and Commercial Manager is seeking more detailed information from Shropshire.
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|------------|------------------|
| Shropshire | £116 / household |
| Dorset | £140 / household |
| Wiltshire | £171 / household |

Enforcement Review

- 2.7 The Enforcement Review is our second audit for 2018/19, which has recently commenced.
- 2.8 Two temporary additional members of staff were appointed to the Enforcement Team in November 2017, bringing the team total to four. As a result of this increase the team are proactive, rather than reactive. The temporary contracts cease in November 2019.

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- 2.9 The draft scope of this audit has recently been discussed with the Head of Service (Strategy) at DWP. The aim of this review will be to assess the value for money impact of the temporary increase in staffing across the team for future planning.

3. Internal Audit 2019/20 Work Programme

- 3.1 The Dorset Waste Partnership will become part of the Dorset Council from 1st April 2019. Auditing of this service will be considered alongside all other services as part of the annual process to formulate the plan of audit work across the financial year.

Kerry Brown
Senior Auditor - SWAP
January 2019