

This report may be of interest to: Members of the Community Learning Committee and its associated Committees

AUDIT REPORTS

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1. Purpose

- 1.1 To inform Members of the Community Learning Committee of issues arising from Internal Audit reports on services within the remit of this Committee since the last report.

2. Summary

- 2.1 This report concerns 3 audit reports relating to schools.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 The Committee is asked to note this report.

4. **Background**

- 4.1 As previously reported to this Committee, the Contracts Committee has required that a summary of Audit Report findings be provided to each Strategic Committee. This report is aimed at fulfilling that obligation. The Annex to this report lists the audit reports which have reached final stage since the last report to Committee.

5. **Issues and Choices**

Schools

- 5.1 The last report to committee identified a number of common themes in respect of the audit of schools. It was reported then that the Finance Manager would write to all schools highlighting these themes. This has now been done and the Schools Finance Support Team has been involved in some follow up work with schools as a consequence.
- 5.2 The issues identified in the three recent audits are similar to those reported to this Committee at its last meeting. The audits will have been carried out prior to the letter sent by the Finance Manager, so it remains to be seen whether this initiative has a beneficial effect. In all cases the audit recommendations have been agreed by the school and in many cases have already been implemented.

6. **Implications**

6.1 Environmental

None arising directly from this report

6.2 Equalities

None arising directly from this report.

6.3 Financial

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report, although these may arise if any weaknesses in financial controls identified by the audits are not dealt with adequately.

6.4 Staff and Accommodation

Training for administrative staff in financial matters may be required to address the identified weaknesses.

7. **Conclusions**

- 7.1 No fundamental problems have been identified by the audit reports. A number of weaknesses have been identified in all reports which have been agreed by management and action taken already in most cases. This should ensure that the authority is safeguarded against serious financial risk.

Background Papers: Individual Audit reports as listed in the Annex.