

Audit Committee – 13th December 2007

## 6. Update on Homelessness and Stores Audit Reports

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### Purpose of the Report

This report was requested by the Audit Committee in July 2007 to update members on actions that have been taken to improve processes and internal controls within the Stores and Homelessness services.

### Recommendations

To note the actions to date.

### Background

The South West Audit Partnership (SWAP) reported their findings of reviews of Homelessness in March 2007 and Stores in May 2007. As part of the Auditor's Opinion, each review is given a 'star' rating offering management the following levels of assurance:

▲★★★★ **Full** - The areas reviewed were found to be adequately controlled. Internal controls are in place and operating effectively at all times and risks against the achievement of objectives are well managed.

▲★★★ **Reasonable** - Most of the areas reviewed were found to be adequately controlled. Generally risks are well managed but some systems require the introduction or improvement of internal controls to ensure the achievement of objectives.

▲★★★ **Partial** - Most of the areas reviewed were not found to be adequately controlled. Generally risks are not well managed and systems require the introduction or improvement of internal controls to ensure the achievement of objectives.

▲★★★ **None** - The areas reviewed were found to be inadequately controlled. Risks are not well managed and systems require the introduction or improvement of internal controls to ensure the achievement of objectives.

Both the Stores Service and Homelessness were allocated "None" in terms of levels of assurance.

When final reports are issued they include a plan that is agreed by each manager outlining the actions that will be taken and a target date agreed for completion. The attached action plans (pages 5-16) show the progress to date for both services. David Stapleton, Corporate Director - Health and Well-being and Ian Potter, Head of Revenues and Benefits will attend the meeting to answer members' queries regarding progress on Homelessness. Vega Sturgess, Corporate Director - Environment and Chris Cooper, Head of Streetscene Services will attend for any queries on Stores.

A follow up review will also be carried out on these two services before the year-end. The Audit Committee will be informed of any outstanding actions resulting from that review that are not followed up by the agreed action dates.

## Financial Implications

There are no financial implications that have not been financed within current budgets.

**Background Papers:** *Audit Committee Agenda and Minutes – 26th July 2007.*

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