

ERW JOINT COMMITTEE

21 JULY 2020

ERW CONSORTIUM INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2019-20

PURPOSE:

To provide the Joint Committee with the findings from the Internal Audit review of the ERW Consortium 2019-20.

RECOMMENDATIONS / KEY DECISIONS REQUIRED:

- To note the Internal Audit Report 2019-20.
- To approve the revised Schedule of Delegation

REASONS:

To provide assurance and highlight areas for improvement to the Joint Committee on the effectiveness of governance, internal control, risk management and financial management arrangements in place for the ERW Consortium.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

ERW JOINT COMMITTEE

21 JULY 2020

ERW CONSORTIUM INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT 2019-20

BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT

To give assurance to the Joint Committee on the effectiveness of governance, internal control, risk management and financial managements in place for the ERW Consortium.

The Internal Audit review for 2019-20 resulted in a limited assurance opinion. The following provides a key summary of weaknesses identified:

- There has been limited progress in implementing recommendations from both the previous internal audit review and the Significant Governance Issues and Priorities for Improvement that were contained within the 2018-19 Annual Governance Statement. There is a lack of oversight by the Joint Committee to ensure previously identified matters arising are addressed and resolved.
- A revised Schedule of Delegation has now been prepared, in compliance with (Recommendation LOL R2), and is attached for approval by the Joint Committee (Appendix 2).
- There are a number of emerging governance concerns around the future Footprint of the Consortium, and the consequential funding ramifications of this. This has diverted an element of the strategic focus away from undertaking the core work of the consortium, has increased the level of uncertainty over the future of the Consortium, and could potentially impact upon the morale of staff employed.
- Information presented to the Joint Committee to monitor the operational implementation of the Business Plan is disjointed, inhibiting the Joint Committee's ability to scrutinise the performance of the Consortium.
- At the time of the audit, a methodology for evaluating the effectiveness of the 2019-20 Business Plan had not yet been fully developed, as the 2019-20 Business Plan did not contain performance metrics to enable effective monitoring.

The factual accuracy of the draft Internal Audit Report has been agreed. Management responses have been received, with the report being finalised on 26 June 2020.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

- 1 – Internal Audit Report 2019-20
- 2 – Revised Schedule of Delegation



IMPLICATIONS

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities NONE	Legal YES	Finance YES	Risk Management Issues YES	Staffing Implications NONE
1. Legal The governance arrangements within the Legal Agreement are not being adhered to. The Executive Board only met once during 2019-20, with Education Directors meeting in place of the Board. The report also highlights areas for improvement to comply with the General Data Protection Regulations, and previous Significant Governance Issues and Priorities for Improvement from 2018-19 which have still not been addressed.				
2. Finance The report highlights that following confirmation of the future Footprint of ERW, discussions should be held with partner Authorities regarding the level of core contributions required to fund the agreed Central team over the medium term, to ensure the level of funding provided is suitable in order to provide sustainability and stability for the Consortium moving forward.				
3. Risk Management The report highlights the risks surrounding emerging governance issues, and the impact of these upon the Consortium.				

CONSULTATIONS

N/A

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
N/A	N/A	N/A