

# Audit and Risk Committee – for assurance

**Meeting date:** 25 April 2024

**Time required:** 5 minutes

**Presenter:** Louise Byers

## 1. Topic

- 1.1. Progress against lessons learned from the production of the 2022/23 Annual Report and Accounts.

## 2. Objective of this report

- 2.1. To provide the Committee with an update on progress in implementing the actions arising from the Lesson Learned report which was presented to the November meeting.
- 2.2. The report outlines progress to the end of the interim audit (week beginning 11 March).

## 3. Recommendation

- 3.1. That the Audit and Risk Committee notes the report.

## 4. Summary

- 4.1. Twelve actions were identified in the Lessons Learned report, for implementation by the ICO and by Deloitte. Four actions have been completed; the remaining eight actions remain in progress.
- 4.2. Good progress has been made in ensuring the involvement of wider teams at the ICO in the audit planning and interim stages, including colleagues from People Services and Corporate Governance.
- 4.3. The interim audit took place at the start of March, with audit staff on site for two days to complete testing. Journals have been tested for the first 10 periods of the year, and the ECL model and contingent liabilities are being reviewed. Staff from the Finance team, People Services team and Risk and Governance team have been contacted for information, and are providing this directly via Huddle.

- 4.4. The final audit visit is currently being planned, with a list of audit evidence provided. All higher risk areas are scheduled to begin at the start of the audit.
- 4.5. The draft Annual Report and Accounts will be provide to Deloitte on 29 April (after a review of Sections A and B by SLT and ET, and a review of Part B by ARC) with tracked changes turned on after this point to ensure there is a clear audit trail.
- 4.6. As we approach the final audit, all parties will bear in mind the need for regular meetings and discussions to clear down audit queries in a timely manner, and for openness, transparency and realistic reporting should any delays arise.
- 4.7. A summary of the actions, ICO responses and Deloitte / NAO responses to date is attached in Annex 1.

## 5. Publication decision

- 5.1. This report can be published internally and externally without redactions.

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