

Appendix 3E: Audits Revisited

Purpose of these audits

To assess whether the actions agreed in the original audit have been implemented and are now effectively embedded into the day-to-day operation of the service.

Traffic Management Schemes implemented by Traffic Regulations Orders

Original Objective

To assess the effectiveness of arrangements to identify, implement, enforce, monitor and amend highway and traffic management schemes implemented by a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO).

To also assess whether TRO-related actions agreed as part of the Parking Management Scheme audit (completed May 2014) that are now due have been implemented and effectively embedded into day-to-day procedures.

Results

Fully implemented	Substantially implemented	Partially implemented	Not implemented	No longer applicable
6	0	0	0	1

Summary

The Traffic Management and Highways Network service has dealt with all the actions that remained outstanding from the original and subsequent Traffic Regulations Order (TROs) reviews. The original action plan completion date was October 2015. However, work did not start on most of the actions until then and it continued until June 2016, when the audit was concluded.

The business took the decision to undertake a procurement exercise for the development of ParkMap, rather than use internal resource, and therefore Action R6 is no longer applicable.

Staff now use ParkMap to check what TRO's should be in place when out on an inspection and report any exceptions found, which automatically updates the Asset Management system linked to it. They also formally record the inspection on a document that describes all the checks that should be completed. This is independently checked on their return to the office.

The service has also:

- put a traffic management scheme policy and protocol in place, covering all the expected elements
- amended the criteria for assessing requests for Traffic Management and Safety schemes appropriately and the criteria has been approved by Traffic and Parking Working Party
- amended the reports to the Traffic and Parking Working Party (T&PWP) so they now clearly set out the rationale for progressing or not, with schemes

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- made more effective use of the pre-sifting spreadsheet recording all traffic and parking member's requests, to make clear what action if any, is required by the T&PWP.

Managing Ofsted Action Plans

Original Objective

To assess whether the Department for People operates effective processes for ensuring that recommendations contained in action plans arising from Ofsted inspections of schools, Private Voluntary Independent settings, Children's Centres and the Council's Children's Social Care Services, are implemented, properly by the due date.

Results

Fully implemented	Substantially implemented	Partially implemented	Not implemented	No longer applicable
3	0	2	1	0

Summary

Progress has been made to strengthen the process for developing action plans to address issues raised by these Ofsted inspections and ensure "Statements of Action" effectively drive the school to make prompt, significant improvements.

Action has been taken to:

- create templates for:
 - the agendas and minutes of School Improvement Partnership Board meetings and these were found to be in use
 - post Ofsted action plans and Statements of Action, which are now signed off by the Learning and Improvement Group Manager and had been implemented for all schools.
- produce guidance, which explicitly defines the Council's role and powers with respect to managing the implementation of these Ofsted recommendations and how it will evidence this.

Further work is now required to:

- update the Improving Learning Together Policy to provide further guidance on developing and managing all post-Ofsted inspection action plans and Statements of Action
- develop a system which provides:
 - evidence that all actions emanating from post Ofsted inspection action plans are being monitored and implemented. It should be noted that these action plans are discussed at School Improvement Partnership Board meetings
 - regular reports for senior management on the progress in completing outstanding actions.

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Welfare Reform

Original Objective

To assess whether the action plan from the in-depth Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee Welfare Reform project is being implemented in line with agreed timescales and there is evidence the required outcomes are being achieved.

Results

Fully implemented	Substantially implemented	Partially implemented	Not implemented	Closed
0	0	1	1	N/A

Summary

The Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee's final Welfare Reform report was agreed by Cabinet in July 2014. When the original audit report was completed in April 2015, the key issue was that the action plan had not been fully developed, and although some actions had been implemented, it had not been monitored effectively.

As at April 2016, further work was still required to:

- integrate the action plan into Corporate Services' performance management framework so it is routinely monitored by senior management and Members
- update the action plan to include clear measurable outcomes and timescales for pledges six to eight and individual monitoring arrangements for all pledges.