

Regulatory and Audit Committee

Title:	Bucks Learning Trust update
Date:	Wednesday 27 April 2016
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Summary

During August 2015 Internal Audit and Risk Management conducted an audit of Buckinghamshire Learning Trust (BLT); the final report was issued in September 2015.

The overall conclusion on the system of internal control of BLT was that BLT provided a limited level of assurance. The Learning Trust is an educational charity that delivers on behalf of Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) a range of education support services to schools and early years' settings. It is governed by a Board of Trustees. BLT works with BCC to enable it to discharge its statutory duties. The Committee last received a progress report on BLT on the 03 February 2016.

To address the findings of the audit a project plan was initiated, supported by a cross Council team with officers from legal, procurement and commissioning and services managers from Children's Social Care and Learning.

Status Update

1. The project group continue to meet on a fortnightly basis to review progress against the project plan, related risk register and recommendations from the audit.
2. Of the 26 recommendations within the audit, 24 have been completed. The remaining 2, which are related, are in progress with the aim for them to be completed prior to the end of the current contract year (July 2016).



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3. As part of the revised Governance arrangements, the “BLT Commissioning Group” made up of members and senior officers from the Council met with the BLT CEO and Finance Director on 07 February 2016 to review and challenge performance. Similarly, the “Contract Management Group” met with the BLT on 03 February 2016. These arrangements will form part of the “business as usual” governance moving forward.

4. Negotiations are in place to agree the BLTs service delivery for the academic year 2016/17. It needs to be noted that service delivery for 16/17 will be impacted by the MTP budget reduction and other financial adjustments, which means service delivery will need to be prioritised.

5. It is anticipated that the project group will shortly disband, with a new project group starting in June 2016 to focus on reviewing options for when the current contracting arrangement finishes in July 2018.

Recommendation: The Committee is asked to note the report.
