

Subject:	Rossendale Borough Council Public Improvement Plan	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Audit & Accounts Committee	Date:	27 th Sept 2016
Report of:	Head of Finance	Portfolio Holder:	Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources
Key Decision:	<input type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input type="checkbox"/>	General Exception <input type="checkbox"/>	Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required:	Yes /No	Attached: Yes /No
Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Required:	Yes /No	Attached: Yes /No
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1.	RECOMMENDATION(S)
1.1	That members note and endorse the Improvement Plan (Appendix 1)

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 The purpose of the report is to bring to the attention of Members the Council's improvement plan and response to Empty Homes Internal Audit report.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 3.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities:
- **Regenerating Rossendale:** This priority focuses on regeneration in its broadest sense, so it means supporting communities that get on well together, attracting sustainable investment, promoting Rossendale, as well as working as an enabler to promote the physical regeneration of Rossendale.
 - **Responsive Value for Money Services:** This priority is about the Council working collaboratively, being a provider, procurer and a commissioner of services that are efficient and that meet the needs of local people.
 - **Clean Green Rossendale:** This priority focuses on clean streets and town centres and well managed open spaces, whilst recognising that the Council has to work with communities and as a partner to deliver this ambition.

4. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 All the issues raised and the recommendation in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

- The Improvement Plan is specifically designed to assist in identifying, managing and mitigating future risk exposure to the Council.

5. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

5.1 The initial management response to the Internal Audit report on Empty Homes was presented to Members in December 2015 with a progress update reported in March 2016. The attached report is the Councils final response to the Empty Homes project, corporate governance and wider systems of internal control.

5.2 The final improvement plans can be seen at Appendix 1 and are focused on a number of themes:

- Behaviour / cultural change
- Effective / successful council
- Performance / project management
- Partnership
- Managerial / Procedure

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

6. SECTION 151 OFFICER

6.1 The financial implications arising have been regularly reported in the Council's financial monitoring to Members.

7. MONITORING OFFICER

7.1 The improvement plan makes particular reference to changes already made and future changes planned with regard to Governance and internal control matters.

8. POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

8.1 The improvement plan makes particular reference to changes done and to be done with regard to organisational and cultural change and development within Council.

9. CONCLUSION

9.1 The report is meant to articulate further the management and Council's response to the Empty Homes project and the learning which the council seeks to embed in the organisation.

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Internal Audit Report	Council Website