

5. AUDIT SCOTLAND STRATEGIC AUDIT RISK ANALYSIS 2008/2009

The Audit Committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated), which presented Audit Scotland's Strategic Audit Risk Analysis for 2008/2009.

The report advised that the Strategic Audit Risk Analysis (SARA) set out the findings of the Audit Scotland's review of the strategic risks facing West Lothian Council and that Audit Scotland had reported on the basis of the following key national priorities for 2008/2009 to 2010/2011: -

- Vision and strategic direction
- Partnership working and community leadership
- Governance and accountability
- Performance management and improvement
- Risk management
- Financial management
- People management
- Asset management
- Procurement
- Information management
- Service priorities and risks

The SARA, which was attached to the report at Appendix 1, concluded with a Strategic Risk Plan, which summarised the key risks facing the council, set out the management assurances and detailed the audit work that Audit Scotland planned to undertake.

The Internal Audit Manager concluded that Audit Scotland intended to monitor progress in addressing the risks identified and to report any significant matters, which arose on an exception basis. In addition any significant findings from their work may be included in their annual report on their audit.

Councillor Dixon noted that in the Strategic Analysis Risk Audit reference had been made to a 6-month sickness absence pilot project that had commenced in November 2008, and requested feedback on the outcome of the project.

The Chief Executive advised that an interim report was available, however the pilot had been extended by a further three months and that a more comprehensive report would be presented to the December meeting of the Audit Committee.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report; and
2. Agreed that a report concerning the sickness absence pilot project would be presented to the December meeting of the Audit Committee.