

Meeting:	Audit and Governance Committee	Date:	22nd January 2018
Subject:	Annual Governance Statement 2016/17 Improvement Plan – Progress Report		
Report Of:	Head of Audit Risk Assurance (Chief Internal Auditor)		
Wards Affected:	Not applicable		
Key Decision:	No	Budget/Policy Framework:	No
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Appendices:	A: Annual Governance Statement 2016/17 Improvement Plan – Progress Report		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide assurance to the Committee that the improvement areas and associated actions identified as part of the annual review of governance arrangements operating within the Council, have been/are being addressed.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Audit and Governance Committee is asked to **RESOLVE** to review and consider the actions taken to address the governance improvement areas identified.

3.0 Background and Key Issues

- 3.1 The Council is required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 to publish an Annual Governance Statement, in accordance with 'proper practices' in order to report publicly on the extent to which we comply with our own Local Code of Corporate Governance. This approach includes how the Council has monitored the effectiveness of our arrangements in year and on any planned changes to our governance arrangements in the coming year.
- 3.2 The Annual Governance Statement is signed by the Leader and Managing Director (Head of Paid Service) and must accompany the Annual Statement of Accounts.
- 3.3 Members approved the Council's Annual Governance Statement 2016/17 (including the Annual Governance Statement 2016/17 Improvement Plan) at the 19th June 2017 Audit and Governance Committee meeting.
- 3.4 This report is the first update presented to Members on the Council's progress (detailed in **Appendix A**) against agreed actions from the Annual Governance Statement 2016/17 Improvement Plan.

4.0 Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Considerations

4.1 There are no ABCD implications as a result of the recommendation made in this report.

5.0 Alternative Options Considered

5.1 There are no alternative options that are relevant to this matter.

6.0 Reasons for Recommendations

6.1 The Council is required to produce an Annual Governance Statement under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. Through the Council's Constitution, the Audit and Governance Committee has responsibility for review and approval of the Statement (including relevant Improvement Plans).

7.0 Future Work and Conclusions

7.1 The Council's Annual Governance Statement 2017/18 is due to be presented to Audit and Governance Committee in July 2018, and will include a final progress report against the Annual Governance Statement 2016/17 Improvement Plan.

8.0 Financial Implications

8.1 There are no direct financial costs arising out of this report.

(Financial Services have been consulted in the preparation this report).

9.0 Legal Implications

9.1 Nothing specific arising from the report recommendations.

(One Legal have been consulted in the preparation this report).

10.0 Risk and Opportunity Management Implications

10.1 Failure to deliver an effective corporate governance framework prevents the Council in directing and controlling its resources effectively and efficiently, to enable the Council's objectives to be met.

11.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA):

11.1 The PIA Screening Stage was completed and did not identify any potential or actual negative impact, therefore a full PIA was not required.

12.0 Other Corporate Implications

Community Safety

12.1 There are no 'Community Safety' implications arising out of the recommendations in this report.

Sustainability

- 12.2 There are no 'Sustainability' implications arising out of the recommendations in this report.

Staffing & Trade Union

- 12.3 There are no 'Staffing and Trade Union' implications arising out of the recommendations in this report.

Background Documents: Annual Governance Statement 2016/17