



**ANNUAL GOVERNANCE
STATEMENT 2021-22
PROGRESS REPORT –
DRAFT JANUARY 2023**

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council is required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 to publish an Annual Governance Statement (AGS). This is to demonstrate the extent to which it complies with its Local Code of Corporate Governance. The AGS also demonstrates how the Council has monitored the effectiveness of its arrangements in year and on any planned changes to governance arrangements in the coming year.
- 1.2 The AGS is signed by the Leader and Managing Director (Head of Paid Service) and must accompany the Council's Annual Statement of Accounts.
- 1.3 The AGS for 2021-22 was presented to, and approved by, the Audit and Governance Committee (the Committee) at its meeting on the 18th of July 2022.
- 1.4 This progress report highlights to the Committee the actions that have been undertaken by management to address the issues identified in the AGS for 2021-22 as requiring attention.

Governance matter identified	Position as at December 2022	Target Date and Lead Officer
<p>Cyber Security and Resilience</p> <p>The Council experienced a highly sophisticated cyber security incident at the end of 2021 that disrupted service delivery. The Council assessed the incident to understand the full impact.</p> <p>The Council maintained services to residents.</p>	<p>The Director of Policy & Resources has provided updates to the Committee on the Council's progress in recovering from this incident.</p>	<p>Director of Policy & Resources – on going.</p>
<p>Office move in 2022-23</p> <p>The Council is due to move out of Shire Hall and into the Eastgate shopping centre. Business plans are in place to ensure that the move is successful. No significant disruption is expected during the move as hybrid working arrangements allow for full service delivery.</p>	<p>The office move was successfully completed and there was no disruption to service delivery.</p>	<p>Director of Policy & Resources – completed.</p>

Governance matter identified	Position as at December 2022	Target Date and Lead Officer
<p>Financial Resilience</p> <p>Financial resilience will need to be monitored closely, in light of the challenges posed by the volatility of inflation, utility prices and interest rates.</p> <p>The Council continues to effectively manage its finances in order to minimise the risks from financial pressures.</p> <p>The risk of the Council issuing a Section 114 notice is low.</p>	<p>The Council continues to effectively manage its finances and has a low risk of issuing a Section 114 notice.</p>	<p>Director of Policy & Resources – ongoing.</p>
<p>Risk Management</p> <p>An independent review undertaken during 2021-22 found that there is opportunity for the Council to improve its management of risk.</p> <p>ARA will include actions to improve risk management in their Annual Report on Risk Management.</p> <p>This will include refreshing the Council’s risk registers and reviewing the Risk Management Strategy and training for officers and Members.</p>	<p>Actions from the Risk Management Report have been included in an Action Plan and are being progressed by the Council with advice from ARA.</p>	<p>Director of Policy & Resources – ongoing.</p>
<p>Hybrid working</p> <p>The Council has implemented hybrid working in 2022-23.</p> <p>The Council will monitor the performance of staff working remotely.</p>	<p>The Council continues to deliver services with staff working in a hybrid manner.</p> <p>Management monitor staff performance and service delivery on a continuous basis.</p>	<p>Director of Policy & Resources – ongoing.</p>