

DRAFT
Colchester Borough Council
Annual Governance Statement – Action Plan for 2023/24

Significant Internal Control Issues – Relating to 2022/23 Financial Year

No.	Issue	Action	Due Date	Responsible Officer	How this Issue was Identified
1.	<p>Implementation of the CBH Independent Review Recommendations Work is already underway on implementing the recommendations that were made in the external report. However, it is appropriate that the review is highlighted on the AGS action plan for 22/23, to ensure that the momentum of the delivery of the recommendations is maintained</p>	<p>The result of the independent review will continue to be implemented and monitored, with regular reporting to the Governance & Audit Committee during 2023/24.</p>	31/03/24	Executive Director, Place	Governance Review
2.	<p>The CIPFA Financial Management Code CCC is facing extreme pressures from the impacts of the external financial climate. A delay in completing the self assessment could mean that opportunities to strengthen financial arrangements are missed.</p>	<p>Completion of the self assessment against the code.</p>	31/12/23	Director of Finance	Governance Review

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	<p>External Audit Implications – Carried forward from 2021/22</p> <p>Whilst the Council cannot control the delivery of the external audit of the accounts, The Use of Resources assessment (that provides detail on areas of suggested improvement) for 20/21 has still not been received. The failure of the External Audit contractor to deliver a timely service in assessing the Council’s accounts could potentially mean that a financial governance issue is not resolved, and ultimately may impact on external assessment and partner challenge.</p>	<p>Pressure will continue to be applied on the External Auditors to deliver the reports. This is an issue that is affecting many authorities currently, and the Council will continue to monitor national actions relating to external audit delivery.</p>	<p>On-going</p>	<p>Director of Finance</p>	<p>Governance Review</p>
	<p>Company Governance – Carried forward from 2021/22</p> <p>The Council’s holding company, Colchester Commercial Holdings Ltd, has now been operating for four years. It is therefore appropriate that the governance arrangements for the company are reviewed to ensure that they are operating as anticipated, in particular financial governance processes. This includes systems in place at the company, including financial management and reporting, as well as board responsibilities and skill set.</p>	<p>The results of the independent reviews of CCHL will continue to be implemented by the ‘Shareholder Team’, made up of the Interim Chief Executive of CCHL and senior council officers, and monitored with regular reporting to the Governance and Audit committee during 2023/24.</p>	<p>31/03/24</p>	<p>Chief Operating Officer</p>	<p>Governance Review</p>