

DRAFT
Colchester Borough Council
Annual Governance Statement – Action Plan for 2021/22

Significant Internal Control Issues – Relating to 2020/21 Financial Year

No.	Issue	Action	Due Date	Responsible Officer	How this Issue was Identified
1.	The Council, like many other organisations, was subjected to deliberate attempts to disrupt its IT processes and potentially access information during the year. The attempts were successfully defeated, however they did highlight some weaknesses in the controls around IT usage. It is also acknowledged that cyber-attacks will continue to evolve, and the system controls will need to be constantly refined to be able to provide adequate defence against them.	A review of system controls is already completed after any attempted cyber-attack, and any necessary changes are immediately implemented to resolve any weaknesses. However, resources need to be dedicated to ensuring that controls are continuously reviewed and developed to guard against new methods of attack.	31/10/21	Head of Corporate & Improvement Services	Self-assessment, recognising that cyber crime is a key threat to the Council.
2.	The response to the pandemic highlighted the importance of effective partnership arrangements. This has included joint planning to alleviate acute health and social care service pressures, partnerships providing business support to help with local economic recovery, and the delivery of community support across multiple agencies, including NHS partners and the community and voluntary sector (CVS). The Annual Governance Statement and Strategic Risk Register acknowledge the essential role of partnerships, but these have not been reviewed considering the Covid pandemic and the Council's strategic priorities and risks.	A review of the Council's partnership arrangements, including partnerships considered strategically important to the delivery of the Council's strategic priorities, is undertaken.	31/12/21	Chief Operating Officer	Self-assessment, the response to the pandemic highlighted the need to be able to effectively utilise partnerships.