

17 January 2017

Report of

Assistant Chief Executive

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Title

Interim Review of the Annual Governance Statement Action Plan.

Wards
affected

Not applicable

This report reviews the implementation of the actions highlighted on the Annual Governance Statement for 2015/16.

1. Actions Required

- 1.1 Consider and note the work undertaken to implement the current Annual Governance Statement action plan.

2. Reason for Scrutiny

- 2.1 Part 2 (3 & 6) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 requires the Council to ensure that it operates a sound system of internal control and to conduct an annual review of the effectiveness of its governance and internal control arrangements. The findings from this review, the Annual Governance Statement (AGS), must be reported to and approved by committee before being signed by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive, and then published for public inspection. The regulations require the statement to be accompanied by an action plan for improving any issues identified.
- 2.2 The Annual Governance Statement for the 2015/16 financial year was reported to the Governance and Audit Committee in June 2016. This included an action plan for issues to be resolved during the current financial year.
- 2.3 The CIPFA/SOLACE 'Good Governance' Guidance highlights that the annual governance review should be a robust ongoing assessment, not just an annual year end exercise. Therefore it is essential to ensure that governance issues are considered during the year and it was agreed that an interim report regarding progress against the action plan would be provided to this committee.

3. Key Messages

- There has been progress against all of the issues identified in the action plan.
- The audit of the final accounts for 2015/16 did not raise any concerns with the Annual Governance Statement or the action plan. Accordingly the statement was published for inspection.

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1 The issues that were included on the action plan have been discussed with the relevant lead officers, and the action plan has been updated with the progress made. The action plan is included at appendix 1.

5. Proposals

- 5.1 To note and comment upon the Councils progress in implementing the current Annual Governance Statement action plan.

6. Strategic Plan Implications

- 6.1 The achievement of the strategic plan requires a sound system of governance to ensure the effective delivery of services. Therefore improving on existing governance arrangements will help to ensure that the strategic plan objectives can be achieved.

7. Risk Management Implications

- 7.1 Risk Management is a fundamental part of the Governance process and a failure to implement the action plan may have an effect on the ability of the Council to control its risks.

8. Other Standard References

- 8.1 There are no direct Publicity, Financial, Consultation, Equality Diversity and Human Rights, Community Safety or Health and Safety implications as a result of this report.