

Meeting:	Audit & governance committee
Meeting date:	23 January 2017
Title of report:	Annual governance statement: action plan update
Report by:	Head of corporate governance

Classification

Open

Key decision

This is not an executive decision.

Wards affected

Countywide

Purpose

To review progress made in delivering the annual governance statement action plan.

Recommendation(s)

THAT:

- (a) **the progress update at appendix 1 be reviewed and the committee determine whether it wishes to recommend any further actions to deliver improvement.**

Alternative options

- 1 The progress update is for information; the committee may identify issues to be included in the future work programme or recommend actions for management to consider.

Reasons for recommendations

- 2 To enable the committee to be assured that the agreed action plan is being implemented.

Key considerations

- 3 The council has a responsibility for conducting at least annually a review of the effectiveness of the governance framework including the system of internal control. This is reported through the annual governance statement which provides commentary on how the council's governance framework including the system of internal control can be improved. The annual governance statement process is the key mechanism used by the audit and governance committee to ensure that governance arrangements are sound and seen to be so. The committee approved the statement and supporting action plan at its meeting on 4 July 2016; appendix 1 provides an update (shown as tracked changes) on progress in implementing the agreed action plan which is monitored through the corporate performance processes; it is too early to assess whether the actions have achieved the intended outcome.
- 4 The annual governance statement, which is appended to the signed statement of accounts, and the accompanying action plan will next be reviewed by the committee at its meeting in May 2017.

Community impact

- 5 The council has agreed a set of corporate values which includes a commitment to being open, transparent and accountable; the agreed action plan seeks to deliver improvements which support achievement of this commitment.

Equality duty

- 6 The content of the report has no impact on equality and diversity.

Financial implications

- 7 This report is for information purposes; none identified.

Legal implications

- 8 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 include a requirement for all councils to produce an annual governance statement. This progress report is for information purposes only and does not have any legal implications.

Risk management

- 9 This report is for information purposes; none identified.

Consultees

- 10 None.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – updated annual governance statement action plan.

Background papers

None identified.