

## POLICY REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT PANEL REPORT

REPORT TO:	Audit Committee		
DATE:	28 January 2019		
TITLE:	Update on progress with the Annual Governance Statement covering the 2018/19 year		
TYPE OF REPORT:	Monitoring		
PORTFOLIO(S):	Leader		
REPORT AUTHOR:	Ged Greaves, Senior Policy and Performance Officer		
OPEN/EXEMPT	Open	WILL BE SUBJECT TO A FUTURE CABINET REPORT:	No

### **REPORT SUMMARY/COVER PAGE**

PURPOSE OF REPORT/SUMMARY:
<p>At its meeting in July 2018, the Audit Committee approved the council's Annual Governance Statement covering and reflecting back on the 2017/18 financial year.</p> <p>During 2015/16 it had been agreed that the committee should receive an update on the progress being made with the action plan arising from the Annual Governance Statement.</p> <p>This report provides that update in relation to the action plan for the 18/19 year.</p>
KEY ISSUES:
<p>The council is required to produce an Annual Governance Statement (AGS) each year<sup>1</sup> and the Audit Committee is the body now designated to approve the statement, alongside the Statement of Accounts.</p> <p>The report summarises progress made since April 2017 and also describes work that is planned to be undertaken over the coming months to achieve the identified actions.</p>
OPTIONS CONSIDERED:
Not applicable.
RECOMMENDATIONS:
The Committee is recommended to review the progress made and endorse the approach being taken to achieve the actions arising from the 2017/18 Annual Governance Statement, as detailed in the 2018/19 AGS Action Plan.
REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:
To ensure that Members are kept informed about progress with the council's Annual Governance Statement arrangements.

### **REPORT DETAIL**

#### **1.0 Background**

- 1.1 The preparation and publication of an Annual Governance Statement (AGS) is a statutory requirement. The AGS is a public statement that describes and evaluates

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<sup>1</sup> Under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, regulation 6(1)

the council's overall governance arrangements during a particular financial year. It includes a self-assessment of the effectiveness of the governance arrangements, across all areas of activity, together with a statement of the actions being taken or required to address any areas of concern.

- 1.2 Each year, during the process of putting together the AGS, an action plan is devised to make sure that any gaps or weaknesses identified in the authority's governance arrangements are addressed. The AGS covering the 2017/18 year was approved by the Audit Committee on 30th July 2018 and included an Action Plan to be completed during the current 2018/19 year.

## **2.0 Progress on the action plan**

- 2.1 The action plan being progressed this year is shown at Appendix A. It consists of 17 actions. Of those, 11 entries have been completed, the remaining 6 are on track to be completed by the target date of December 2019.

## **3.0 Corporate Priorities**

Not applicable, statutory requirement.

## **4.0 Policy Implications**

None.

## **5.0 Financial Implications**

None.

## **6.0 Personnel Implications**

None.

## **7.0 Statutory Considerations**

- 7.1 The monitoring of the Annual Governance Statement action plan is needed to ensure compliance within the set deadlines.

## **8.0 Equality Opportunity Considerations**

None.

## **9.0 Risk Management Implications**

- 9.1 The Annual Governance Statement itself forms part of the council's risk management process and provides reasonable assurance (as defined in section x of the AGS itself) that the council is complying with the adopted Code of Corporate Governance.
- 9.2 Progressing the actions identified within the AGS demonstrates the council's willingness to address areas for improvement.

## **10.0 Recommendations**

- 10.1 The Committee is recommended to review the progress made and endorse the approach being taken to the council's 2018/19 Annual Governance Statement action plan.

## **11.0 Declarations of Interest / Dispensations Granted**

None.

### **Background Papers**

CIPFA/SOLACE Framework including Guidance Notes and Addendum  
Audit Committee agenda 30 July 2018