

Agenda Item No: 7
Report To: Audit Committee
Date: 01 December 2015
Report Title: Annual Governance Statement – Progress on Remedying Exceptions
Report Author: Nick Clayton, Policy and Performance Officer



Summary:	This report updates on the progress made towards the areas of review highlighted by the 2014-2015 Annual Governance Statement
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Key Decision: NO

Affected Wards: All

Recommendations: **The Audit Committee be asked to:-**

Note progress made towards the areas of review highlighted by the Annual Governance Statement as detailed in this report

Policy Overview: Each year the council must produce and approve an Annual Governance Statement (AGS). AGS are designed to summarise for members and residents the council's approach to governance and show how the council fulfils the principles for good corporate governance in the public sector.

Financial Implications: None

Risk Assessment N/A

Equalities Impact Assessment N/A

Other Material Implications:

Background Papers:

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Purpose of the Report

1. To update on the progress made towards the areas of review highlighted by the 2014-2015 Annual Governance Statement.

Issue to be Decided

2. To note progress made towards the areas of review highlighted by the 2014-2015 Annual Governance Statement.

Background

3. Each year the council must produce and approve an Annual Governance Statement (AGS). AGS are designed to summarise for Members and residents the council's approach to governance and show how the council fulfils the principles for good corporate governance in the public sector. The AGS needs to draw conclusions, based on evidence throughout the past year, about the effectiveness of the council's arrangements.
4. The 2014-2015 Annual Governance Statement (AGS) was agreed by the June meeting of the Audit Committee and identified two areas for continued work and review as follows:
 - The need for the Cabinet to agree a new corporate plan for Autumn 2015
 - Completion of work reviewing the Council's current risk management procedures
5. This report updates on the progress made towards the areas of review highlighted by the 2014-2015 Annual Governance Statement as above.

Progress to date

The need for the Cabinet to agree a new corporate plan for Autumn 2015

6. The Cabinet considered and approved a summary version of the council's new corporate plan on 8th October 2015, as part of a suite of complementary reports concerning "The Next Five Years". This suite also included reports on the Medium Term Financial Plan and phase 2 of the succession planning report. The Cabinet is due to receive a further full corporate plan at its December meeting.

Completion of work reviewing the Council's current risk management procedures

7. A report proposing a review of the way the council evaluates risks, alongside improvements in risk monitoring, management and review, was considered and endorsed by the Audit Committee at its meeting of 29th September 2015 – this addressed the stated area of review from the Annual Governance Statement of June 2015
8. Key officers across the authority are currently receiving training on the procedures behind these new risk arrangements, with the first update on the council's revised risk register due to be considered by the Audit Committee in March 2016.

Conclusion

9. Following the meeting of the Audit Committee in September one of the two areas highlighted by the 2014 - 2015 Annual Governance Statement is now complete, subject to the appropriate training for officers to raise awareness of the revised risk arrangement. Whilst Cabinet has approved the summary version of the corporate plan, with a full version due to be considered by the committee before the end of the calendar year it is fully expected that this other governance area will also be completed by the end of this next quarter.

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