

Division(s):

## **AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 18 MARCH 2020**

### **Update on actions - Annual Governance Statement 2019/20**

**Report by Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer**

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. **The Committee is RECOMMENDED to consider and note the outcomes so far on the governance actions agreed in last year's Annual Governance Statement.**

#### **Introduction**

2. Each year the Council must approve an Annual Governance Statement. This Committee is instrumental in this and will be invited to approve a new Statement in May 2020. The Statement provides a description of the effectiveness of the Council's governance framework and an Opinion as to its sufficiency. It also normally includes a set of governance actions that will form a priority for the year ahead.
3. In last year's Annual Governance Statement, several governance actions were listed as priorities for 2019/20. The Committee asked for a separate update on the outcomes from these actions before the Committee then goes on to consider the Annual Governance Statement for the forthcoming year. As such, this report includes a brief update on the priority actions identified for the 2019/20 year. The final position on them will be given in the Annual Governance Statement in May this year.

#### **The actions for 2019/20**

4. In forming each year's Annual Governance Statement, the Council's Corporate Governance Assurance Group of senior governance officers, this Committee's Audit Working Group and finally this Committee itself, agree a set of priority governance actions that will be a particular focus for the year ahead. These are included as an integral part of the Annual Governance Statement. This means that each year's Statement 'looks two ways': an update is given on the actions for the previous year and a fresh set of actions is identified for the year ahead.
5. In last year's Statement the actions for the 2019/20 year related to:
  - Property and security – delivering on outcomes from a property (health and safety audit); and greater integration of the property and security functions.
  - Business Continuity – embed the business continuity framework.
  - ICT and Digital – data back-up system options for improvement.

- Procurement – further develop the Council’s contract management; system; improve visibility of requirements.
6. Annex 1 to this report summarises the outcomes to date. A final position statement on these actions will feature in the forthcoming Annual Governance Statement which will be presented to this meeting once it has been reviewed by the Corporate Governance Assurance Group and the Audit Working Group.

## **Legal and Financial Implications**

7. This recommendation in this report does not raise any legal or financial implications.

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Background papers: Nil

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