

Division(s):

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 6 MARCH 2019

Update on actions - Annual Governance Statement 2018/19

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 2019. 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 2018/19 and the Committee asked for a separate update on the outcomes from these actions before the Committee then goes on to consider, in the Annual Governance Statement for the forthcoming year. As such, this report includes a brief update on the actions taken under each priority heading ahead of the final position statement being given in the Annual Governance Statement in May.

The actions for 2018/18

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 2018/19 year related to:
 - Carrying out governance actions from an internal audit of Mental Health services
 - Implementation of the General Data Protection Regulations
 - Implementing the governance framework for the programme now known as the Council's Transformation Programme

- Providing a more robust governance structure to the Council's corporate security arrangements
 - Delivering a refresh of the Council's financial management assurance framework
 - Delivering a property compliance project to review and prioritise necessary actions
 - Providing a means of co-ordinating the 'governance outcomes' of External Assessments to ensure these are delivered
 - Developing a refreshed procurement strategy and policy.
6. Annex 1 to this report summarises the outcomes to date. A final position statement will be incorporated within the next Annual Governance Statement, which will also be reviewed by the Corporate Governance Assurance Group and the Audit Working Group.
7. Last year, the Committee asked to receive and update on the outcomes for each action. The Committee is therefore invited to consider and note the outcomes to date. For this Committee of course, the focus is on the governance issue(s) raised by each action and not the subject matter of the service concerned.

Legal and Financial Implications

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

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Background papers: Nil

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