

SUBJECT: ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT MONITORING

DIRECTORATE: CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND TOWN CLERK

LEAD OFFICER: PAT JUKES, BUSINESS MANAGER, CORPORATE POLICY

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present a progress update on those areas identified as 'significant governance issues' and set out in the 2016/17 Annual Governance Statement (AGS).

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The Audit Committee has a role to review the Council's governance arrangements including the production of the Annual Governance Statement.

This report provides details of the monitoring arrangements for the significant internal control issues raised in the latest AGS. In addition the report highlights and reports on two areas that whilst not considered significant issues, were noted as needing to retain a focus on them.

3. Monitoring of the Annual Governance Statement

3.1 Monitoring of the 2016/17 AGS Issues

The updates on the significant issues identified within the 2016/17 AGS are included within Appendix A

These are monitored by the Service Manager's Group as well as the Audit Committee.

3.2 Summary of Findings

There are now just two significant issues – both are now considered to be amber.

- Audit Committee agreed to reduce Information Management from red to amber following the completion of the initial training programme. Further actions are detailed in Appendix A and are reported in a separate report by Legal Services on the steps to be taken to reach green status
- The Committee also agreed that IT disaster recovery could be reduced from red to amber now that the secondary data centre is fully in action. Further actions required on the Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity Plans to reach green status are detailed in Appendix A

There are two other areas that the AGS made a recommendation to retain a focus on. Both of these currently remain at green status:

- Partnership Companies - covers any action proposed to set up a new solely owned or joint venture company. There is a single proposal at this point for the Housing Company, which is progressing to Exec in December – full details of progress are to be found in Appendix A
- Risks around compliance to the Lincoln Project Management Model are being monitored during the transition period from the SPIT group to the new section in the AD Group meeting.

4. Organisational Impacts (nb. Finance, Legal and E & D sections below are mandatory, others to be completed only where there is an impact)

4.1 Finance (including whole life costs where applicable)

There are no direct financial implications arising as a result of this report.

4.2 Legal Implications including Procurement Rules

There are no direct legal implications.

4.3 Equality, Diversity & Human Rights (including the outcome of the EA attached, if required)

There are no direct E and D implications arising as a result of this report.

5. Recommendation

5.1 Audit Committee is asked to note the report and consider whether any of the following options are relevant :-

- Report and make recommendations to the Executive if appropriate.
- Refer any matter under review they feel appropriate to the relevant Portfolio Holder, Scrutiny Chair or Committee.
- Seek responses from Officers on matters arising to be submitted to the next Audit Committee on any of the issues raised within this report or associated Appendices.
- Accept the report and continue to monitor arrangements.

Key Decision

No

Do the Exempt Information

No

Categories Apply?

Call in and Urgency: Is the decision one to which Rule 15 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

No

How many appendices does the report contain?

One

List of Background Papers:

None

Lead Officer:

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