



**Governance & Audit
Committee**

Tuesday 14th January 2020

Subject: Annual Governance Statement 2018/19 Action Plan Update

Report by:

Executive Director of Resources

Contact Officer:

Corporate Policy Manager & Deputy Monitoring
Officer

Purpose / Summary:

To review the progress with the Annual
Governance Statement 2018/19 Action Plan.

RECOMMENDATION(S): That Members seek assurance that the current position of the Annual Governance Statement Action Plan for 2018/19, will result in the completion of all relevant actions by July 2020.

IMPLICATIONS

Legal: The Annual Governance Statement details compliance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 as amended by the Accounts and Audit Regulations (amendment) (England) Regulations 2011.

Financial: FIN/143/20/JA

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Staffing: None

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights: None

Data Protection Implications: None

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities: None

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations: None

Health Implications: None

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report :

None.

Risk Assessment: Risk management arrangements are part of corporate governance and issues raised under the arrangements were included within the Annual Governance Statement for this period.

Call in and Urgency: None

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

No

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

No

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Annual Governance Statement is the formal statement of the quality of the Council's governance arrangements, in accordance with the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011.
- 1.2 In July 2019, the Governance and Audit Committee agreed the Annual Governance Statement for 2018/19 and noted that an action plan would be put in place and monitored by the Committee to address a number of issues.

2. Significant Issues 2018/19

- 2.1 The four issues that were identified for development were:
 - I. **Risk Management** – Assess the Council's overall 'risk appetite' and subsequently undertake a review of Strategic Risks and develop a means of ensuring that project related risks are consistently recorded and managed
 - II. **Peer Review** - Prepare for and hold a Peer Review to set improvement targets and seek third party accreditation against a nationally recognised framework
 - III. **Governance Review** - Work on the findings of the Governance Review, undertaken by Internal Audit, to ensure the Council's culture and values are consistently understood and exhibited
 - IV. **Member Induction & Training** - Induct new and returning Councillors and implement the Member Development Training Plan
- 2.2 These issues had been identified as a result of the Council's annual Combined Assurance Report, or the key strategic importance of the issue to the Council.

3. The Action Plan

- 3.1 Progress is being made across all issues contained within the Action Plan. Two actions have been completed; Risk Management and Member Induction & Training.
- 3.2 At this stage it is anticipated that the remaining two issues (Peer Review and Governance Review) will be adequately addressed within the set timescales.
- 3.3 Further details are contained within the attached document.
- 3.4 Members will receive a further progress report in 2020.