



**Governance & Audit
Committee**

Tuesday 13th April 2021

**Subject: Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 Action Plan Progress
Report**

Report by:

Director of Corporate Services and Monitoring
Officer

Contact Officer:

Corporate Policy Manager & Deputy Monitoring
Officer

Purpose / Summary:

To review the progress with the Annual
Governance Statement 2019/20 Action Plan.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

- 1. That Members seek assurance that the current position of the Annual Governance Statement Action Plan for 2019/20, reflects good progress against all actions.**

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/159/21/TJB

None 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 :

*Wherever possible please provide a hyperlink to the background paper/s
If a document is confidential and not for public viewing it should not be listed.*

Risk Assessment: None

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 September 2020, the Governance and Audit Committee agreed the Annual Governance Statement for 2019/20 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 2019/20

- 2.1 The matters included on the action plan are:
 - Senior Management Restructure - Implement the restructure in line with approved decision
 - Sustainability, Climate Change & Environment Strategy - Produce the Strategy for adoption by Council in May 2021
 - Effectiveness of Governance & Audit Committee survey - Address issues arising out of the survey undertaken by the Committee
 - Post-pandemic recovery response & plans - To ensure the Council is fully aware of the impact the pandemic has had on its operations and has mitigated the issues and embraced the benefits
 - Effectiveness and understanding of corporate procurement procedures - Undertake a review of the procedures and implement required remedial actions
 - Peer Review action plan - Maintain oversight and assurance on progress of the action 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 Update

- 3.1 The Action Plan is attached at Appendix 1. Progress has been made across all of the issues contained within it. The Senior Management restructure has been completed; the climate strategy work is nearing completion in readiness for presentation at Annual Council; this committee's working group overseeing the effectiveness action plan have almost concluded their work and actions to review procurement processes and understanding across the Council are continuing.
- 3.2 It is likely that matters relating to post pandemic recovery and plans will remain on the action plan for the 2020/21 AGS. This will take on a new

guise relating to 'Living with Covid19 Roadmap' which is being discussed across the county by the Strategic Command Group.

- 3.3 Additionally, a number of actions within the Peer Review action plan have longer timeframes than the lifespan of this action plan. Therefore one or more may become individual matters for inclusion on the 2020/21 AGS action plan. Appendix 2 provides Members with oversight of the position across all matters suggested for consideration by the Peer Review.
- 3.4 Members will receive a further update report on the AGS 2019/20 action plan later in 2021.