



Governance & Audit  
Committee

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017

**Subject: Periodic review of the Annual Governance Statement Action Plan 2016/17**

Report by:

Ian Knowles, Director of Resources

Contact Officer:

Corporate Policy Manager

Purpose / Summary:

To review the progress with the Annual Governance Statement 2016/17 Action Plan.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

- 1) That Members seek assurance that the current position of the Annual Governance Statement Action Plan for 2016/17 will result in the completion of all relevant actions by July 2018.
- 2) To approve the closure of the action relating to Selective Licensing.
- 3) To retain inclusion of Development Management on the action plan at this stage.

**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 83/18 Actions included in the Annual Governance Statement will be covered by existing resources.

**Staffing:** The action plan details the staff that are responsible for specific actions

**Equality and Diversity including Human Rights: 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.**

**Climate Related Risks and Opportunities: None**

**Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: Annual Governance Statement 2016/17 and Action Plan**

**Call in and Urgency:**

**Is the decision one which Rule 14 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?**

**Yes**

**No**

**X**

**Key Decision:**

**Yes**

**No**

**X**

## **1. Information**

- 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 The Governance and Audit Committee in July 2017 agreed the Annual Governance Statement for 2016/17 and noted that an action plan would be put in place and monitored by the Committee to address the significant issues.

## **2. Significant Issues 2016/17**

- 2.1 The significant issues that were identified for development were:
  - i. **Implementation of General Data Protection Regulations** – to ensure compliance with new regulations coming into force on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018, which aim to increase cyber-security and the protection of data
  - ii. **Political Governance** – to maintain and re-inforce the current high standards of behaviour across all levels of democratic governance within West Lindsey
  - iii. **Partnerships** – to critically evaluate and maintain the effectiveness of the Council's key strategic partnerships
  - iv. **Value for Money** – to complete value for money assessments across service areas and develop appropriate improvement plans to achieve greater value for money and increased productivity; wider usage of benchmarking and the creation of a value for money culture

- v. **Delivery of Key Commercial and Community Based Projects** – to deliver at the required pace, key projects in support of the Corporate Plan which deliver benefits for the whole of the District
- vi. **Resilience and Capacity** – to balance the Council’s capacity to deliver ambitious programmes with the operational and management responsibilities placed on staff
- vii. **Selective Licensing** – for Members to receive and consider a report evaluating the implementation and effectiveness of the scheme
- viii. **Development Management** – to receive the findings of an audit into the service, providing oversight and scrutiny to ensure subsequent recommendations and actions are appropriately considered and implemented

2.2 These issues had been identified as a result of the Council’s annual Combined Assurance Report, the need to carry-over matters contained within the 2015/16 action plan, or the key strategic importance of the issue to the Council.

### **3. The Action Plan**

3.1 The Action Plan is attached and shows the current position against the work designed to resolve the issues that have been identified.

3.2 Progress has been made with regard to the action relating to Selective Licensing. Prosperous Communities Committee received an update [report](#) last month on this subject and have agreed that the scheme is sufficiently mature as to classify it as business as usual activity. Going forward, yearly progress/information reports have been requested. As a result it is proposed to close this action as completed.

3.3 With reference to the entry relating to Development Management, the audit report into this area has been received with a ‘substantial’ assurance rating provided. Actions have been identified and agreed to further strengthen the service provided. It is proposed that this matter remains open on the action plan until such time as progress against the agreed actions has been evidenced. A provisional completion date of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 is suggested.

3.4 Members will receive further progress reports as the year progresses.

### **4. Recommendation**

4.1 Members are asked to:

1. State their assurance that the current position of the Annual Governance Statement Action Plan for 2016/17, will result in the completion of all relevant actions by July 2018.

2. Approve the closure of the action relating to Selective Licensing following the recent receipt and approval by Prosperous Communities Committee of an update report on this topic.

3. Agree to retain reference to Development Management on the action plan until progress against recommended audit actions has been evidenced.