



Governance & Audit
Committee

Date: 17th April 2018

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.

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 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 In July 2017, the Governance and Audit Committee 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 25th 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 Since the action plan was last presented, three further issues have been completed: Resilience & Capacity; Political Governance and Development Management, bringing to four the total number of issues now deemed to be closed.

3.2 Across the remaining issues, work remains in progress with the current position detailed on the attached Action Plan. At this stage it is anticipated that all issues will be adequately addressed within the set timescales.

3.3 A few relevant updates:

Implementation of General Data Protection Regulations: the project plan is being progressed and an audit which examined the Council’s state of preparedness for the new legislation has reported a finding of substantial assurance.

Partnerships: a review is underway of the Council’s partnership arrangements. The findings will be used to compile a report for Management Team.

Value for Money: access to a benchmarking resource has been purchased and an initial set of value for money assessments have been produced. A Performance Officer has been appointed to add additional capacity and support for this work.

3.4 Members will receive one further progress report as the year progresses.

4. Recommendation

4.1 Members are asked to:

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.