



Audit and Risk Management Committee
Tuesday, 22 November 2016

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| REPORT TITLE: | SIGNIFICANT GOVERNANCE ISSUES UPDATE |
| REPORT OF: | ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FINANCE (S151) |

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides the opportunity for Members to highlight areas of concern to inform the Annual Governance Statement. It is also intended to provide a regular update on progress in the delivery of the Annual Governance Statement Action Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

Members are asked to note the report and if appropriate escalate any matters deemed relevant to Cabinet.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 The Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for 2015/16 was presented to this Committee in September 2016. Following discussion by Members it was agreed that a standard agenda item be included for future meetings to allow for regular updates on matters of concern identified in the AGS to be presented.
- 1.2 To ensure that risks to the Council are managed effectively.
- 1.3 To ensure that the Council complies with best practice guidance identified in the CIPFA publication 'A Toolkit for Local Authority Audit Committees'.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 No other options considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At the previous meeting of this Committee in September 2016 the Annual Governance Statement for 2015/16 was presented. Following discussion by Members it was agreed that a standard Agenda item be added to future meetings of this Committee to provide a regular update on matters of concern in relation to the AGS and escalate areas of concern to the Cabinet where required. This would also provide Members with the opportunity to highlight other areas of concern relating to governance issues.
- 3.2 The body responsible for overseeing work in this area is the Council's Corporate Governance Group. This Group met in October 2016 following the previous meeting of this Committee and agreed to the formulation of a detailed plan of action that included the designation of responsible officers and timescales for action to address outstanding governance actions. Following the implementation of the new operating model, this Group will be chaired by the Director for Business Services (Assistant Chief Executive) with full cross departmental representation. The updated action plan and related update for Members of this Committee will be taken to the next meeting of the group in January 2017.
- 3.3 It is intended that the action plan in respect of the organisational and managerial compliance with certain Council processes and procedures, and the progress in response to the Ofsted Report which highlighted matters regarding the delivery of services to children, be presented to the January meeting of this Committee.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are none arising from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are none arising from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There is none arising from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 Appropriate actions are not taken by officers and Members in response to the identification of risks to the achievement of the Council's objectives.

7.2 Potential failure of the Audit and Risk Management Committee to comply with best professional practice and thereby not function in an efficient and effective manner.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 Members of this Committee are consulted throughout the process of preparing the AGS and receive audit updates to each meeting of the Committee.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are none arising from this report.

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APPENDICES

REFERENCE MATERIAL

CIPFA/SOLACE Delivering Good Governance in Local Government

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

| Council Meeting | Date |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Audit and Risk Management Committee | March 2016 |
| Annual Governance Statement | June 2016 |
| | September 2016 |