



Audit and Governance Committee

Date:	6 March 2024
Reference number:	N/A
Title:	Annual Governance Statement 2022/23 – Action Plan Update
Cabinet Member(s):	N/A
Contact officer:	Nick Graham, Director of Legal & Democratic Services Glenn Watson, Principal Governance Officer
Ward(s) affected:	N/A
Recommendations:	To note this periodic update on the Annual Governance Statement Action Plan for 2022/23.
Reason for decision:	To review the progress in implementing the actions agreed for inclusion in the Annual Governance Statement 2022/23.

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 At its meeting on 27 September 2023, the Committee approved the Annual Governance Statement 2022/23 ('the AGS'). The AGS included an action plan on certain strands of governance activity. This report updates the Committee on the implementation of these actions. A round-up of all actions will then feature in the Annual Governance Statement 2023/24, in accordance with best practice.
- 1.2 In short, most actions have either been implemented or are on course for completion in accordance with the timeframes envisaged in the AGS. **Annex 1** indicates the progress to date.

2. Action plan – progress to date

2.1 Some actions have been fully completed such as:

- a) the adoption and publication of a **Local Code of Governance**
- b) regular updating of the Committee on performance in achieving sign-off for the **Statements of Accounts**
- c) **Shareholder Committee** governance actions, with this Committee also scheduled to receive an annual report on company governance arrangements (elsewhere on this agenda)
- d) governance arrangements in place for dealing with **Community Governance Reviews**
- e) proposal that the **governance implications** arising from the **electoral review** be formally reviewed ahead of the May 2025 elections: a joint Constitution Task and Finish Group (of this Committee and the Standards & General Purposes Committee) has been formed to consider the implications for the Constitution
- f) the creation of a members' intranet page listing all **member working groups**, their purpose, duration and membership

2.2 Other actions are progressing as indicated in the Annex.

3. Other options considered

3.1 It is a legal requirement to produce an AGS. Having published an AGS for 2022/23, it is best practice for the Committee to review the progress on itemized actions. No other options would meet this action.

4. Legal and financial implications

4.1 The Council is required to produce an Annual Governance Statement under the Audit and Accounts Regulations 2015. The Committee's monitoring of actions under the AGS is an expression of good practice and is also helpful in preparation for the Annual Governance Statement 2023/24. There are no financial implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

5. Corporate implications

5.1 The AGS reflects the effectiveness of the Council's governance during 2022/23. The implementation of the actions planned for 2023/24 are being co-ordinated by the Council's senior governance officers and the Corporate Management Team.

6. Local councillors & community boards consultation & views

6.1 N/A

7. Communication, engagement & further consultation

7.1 None.

8. Next steps and review

8.1 In accordance with best practice, a final position on all these actions will be included in the Annual Governance Statement for 2023/24, the process for which begins in the coming weeks.

9. Background papers

9.1 CIPFA's 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework' (2016 Edition).

