

AUDIT, CRIME & DISORDER AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
26 NOVEMBER 2015

Annual Governance Statement: Significant Governance Issues

No.	Issue	Agreed Action	Progress to date (November 2015)
1.	<p>Financial Pressures – The Council continue to be at risk of budgetary cuts and increase reliance on income streams</p>	<p>The development of the new MTFS with a cost reduction plan will alleviate some of this risk. It is important that the MTFS is accompanied by a detailed plan of how the projected deficit will be reduced.</p>	<p>The Leadership Team has undertaken a process of Star Chambers, identifying a number of savings which have been built into the 2016/17 budget targets. Those proposals requiring members approval will be reported in the autumn committee cycle.</p>
2.	<p>Corporate Governance – A review of corporate governance has identified a number of weaknesses and failure to comply with procedures.</p>	<p>The Corporate Governance Group has identified an action plan to address key issues</p>	<p>The Corporate Governance Group is in place with updated terms of reference and key targets for 2015/16. This will be monitored on a quarterly basis by the Statutory Officers Group</p>
3.	<p>Procurement – the Council is at risk of noncompliance with legislation and Contract Standing Order</p>	<p>An independent review of procurement capacity will be completed and officer led Procurement Group will be established to implement agreed actions.</p>	<p>The agreed action plan from the independent health check is being implemented by the Procurement Group. A report of the way forward and progress will go the Strategy & Resources Committee in January.</p>

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4	Managing resources –the Council has limited resources and skills to deliver service improvements	As part of embedding the new management structure, need to ensure there is adequate resilience and the correct skill sets within each department. A development programme is in place for the Leadership Team.	The development programme for the Leadership Team is in place and will be completed in December 2015. The Service Risks will be considered by the Leadership Team in November addressing resilience issues in service areas and the implications across the whole Council.
5	Performance Management - The current framework does not produce the information to address and measure key targets.	As part of developing the new Corporate Plan, the performance framework will be adapted to ensure it captures and measures key actions aligned to the key risks.	With the introduction of the new Corporate Plan the performance management arrangements will be strengthened.
6	Information Governance – The Council need to ensure that the mandatory training is complete and all staff are aware of the policies.	Training to be held in June/July 2015.	Training has been completed for all staff and ongoing refreshers will be booked for 2016. The Information Governance Action Plan will continue to be monitored by the Corporate Governance Group

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7	<p>Homelessness – The rising costs of homelessness has resulted in significant increased budgetary constraints.</p>	<p>A Homelessness project group meets fortnightly to address both demand and supply issues. A project plan is in place and the proposed allocation policy will be fully implemented by December 2015.</p>	<p>The new Allocations Policy is implemented and the project team review fortnightly homelessness to address the key actions.</p> <p>The Project Group are reviewing future options for the provision of Temporary accommodation.</p>
8	<p>Fraud – Fraud training and awareness needs to be provided to all staff</p>	<p>Training will be scheduled for 2015</p>	<p>The updated policies will be reviewed by the Corporate Governance Group in November 2015 and training will be rolled out in 2016.</p>
9	<p>Transparency – The Council have not met all the requirements of the Transparency Agenda</p>	<p>To complete the action plan and report to Statutory Officers Group with progress</p>	<p>The Council is compliant and the majority of requirements are in place. The improved accessibility of data will be addressed through the development of the new website. The Head of Legal & Democratic Services will be taking a report to the Leadership Team in December 2015.</p>