

Annual Governance Statement: Significant Governance Issues

No.	Issue	Agreed Action	Progress to date (February 2022)
1.	<p>Funding shortfall caused by sustained losses to income and increased costs due to the long-term impact of Covid 19 on Council Services</p> <p>Potential reduced funding from New Homes Bonus Grant and further losses in future years depending on the outcome and timing of government reviews into Fair Funding and Business Rates</p>	<p>The Council is undertaking budget monitoring and utilisation of govt financial support schemes for local authorities</p> <p>Delivery of existing MTFS planned services savings and new savings identified in January 2021.</p> <p>Strategic Asset Reviews undertaken in 2021/22.</p> <p>Production of a new budget for 2022/23 to factor in updated income and expenditure levels following Covid-19.</p>	<p>The Chief Finance Officer has identified the budget shortfall for 22/23. The budget targets were reported to Strategy & Resources on 27th January 2022 identifying any growth and how the budget gap will be funded.</p> <p>Several strategic asset reviews are currently being undertaken including a review of the Town Hall with further work to implement in 22/23.</p>
2.	<p>The full impact of the pandemic is unlikely to be clear until out of current national lockdown and all restrictions lifted. The Covid 19 Recovery Plan will need to assess both the medium- and longer-term impact on the economy and the community</p>	<p>The service delivery plan and annual plan need to be flexible to reflect the recovery plans, new and adapted services and backlogs and new demands created because of the pandemic. These will be monitored and reviewed regularly.</p> <p>The Recovery Plan will be monitored and regularly updated by Senior Leadership Team</p>	<p>The Annual Plan for 21/22 was approved by Council in September 2021 to reflect both impact of pandemic and new structure. As part of this a new corporate planning process was agreed to combine budget setting with the process for setting priorities.</p> <p>The Annual Plan for 22/23 will be set in February 2022 and aligned with the budget. This takes into account the Covid 19 Recovery Plan.</p>

Annual Governance Statement: Significant Governance Issues (Cont)

No.	Issue	Agreed Action	Progress to date (February 2022)
3.	The Council need to build upon the digital improvement and opportunities resulting from the pandemic	The ICT Road Map will be updated and developed to ensure digital progress.	A key priority for 2022/23 is the development of an ICT Strategy with a funding schedule to inform and support delivery of the ICT road map.
4	There are challenges in delivering effective data security management	A health check of the arrangements for data management should be undertaken and training provided.	The Council's arrangements for data management and data security have been audited and a range of recommendations have since been implemented to enhance arrangements.