

Annual Governance Statement: Significant Governance Issues

No.	Issue	Agreed Action	Progress to date (November 2016)
1.	Public Sector funding reductions and on-going financial pressures	Due to in-house savings a small underspend occurred in 2015/16. Finance will continue to work with managers to reduce costs and deliver the longer term requirements detailed in the Medium Term Financial Strategy and supported by the 4 year cost reduction plan.	The S&R Committee agreed a 4 year finance settlement from DCLG which provides clarity over the financial position. There remains budget pressure to meet efficiencies which need to be identified and built into the budget targets for 2017/18 and going forward.
2.	Lack of staffing and resources due to budget pressures and legislative changes, impacting on the changes required to deliver savings and efficiencies and the impact on delivering core services	<p>The prioritisation of resources through the corporate projects list and implementing of these key projects to improve efficiencies.</p> <p>Implement recommendations from the DMA review and the LGA peer review.</p> <p>Agree an organisational strategy 2016-2020 to support the Corporate Plan</p> <p>Conduct a staff survey and review the outcome One Team Staff Forum and Managers Huddle</p>	The Leadership Team is driving forward a number of initiatives. The corporate projects list is maintained and updated regularly by the Leadership Team with regular Highlight Reports on key projects
3.	The Council has been through a period of change and a number of corporate governance issues have been addressed although there is further work to refine processes and procedures and monitor the impact of these changes	<p>Address issues through the action plans for the corporate groups covering</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Corporate Governance - Procurement -ICT Customer Focus -Economic Vitality -Corporate Property. 	The Corporate Procurement Group has been amalgamated into the Corporate Governance Group. The Groups have agreed work plans in place and report to the Statutory Officers Group

Annual Governance Statement: Significant Governance Issues (Cont)

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4	Although some work has been undertaken in 2015/16, the Council is not fully compliant with the Procurement Legislation and the Transparency Agenda	Updated Contract Standing Orders to be approved in June 2016. Progress joint working with the London Borough of Sutton which will ensure we are compliant with PCR 2015 and the transparency agenda. It will also provide access to procurement expertise, provide an up to date contract register and detailed spend analysis.	The Contract Standing Orders were approved in July. There has been a delay in implementing the joint working arrangement due to a lack of resources, some work has been undertaken and the e-procurement system will go live in October with a staged implementation.
5	A new performance framework needs to be developed to support the new Corporate Plan.	New PI's have been agreed and a new performance management framework is being developed for the autumn committee cycle	The new performance framework has been agreed and will be used to report the new KPI's in the autumn committee cycle
6	There are a number of weaknesses in the control framework impacting on PCI (Payment Card Industry) compliance.	An action plan was agreed to be implemented by September 2016 and will be audited in November 2016.	The Council has an obligation to review its PCI compliance on an annual basis. A PCI Policy has been drafted and internal audit will review our arrangements in November
7	The cost of Homelessness continues to rise adding to financial pressures	A number of initiatives have been agreed by the relevant committee to reduce expenditure including the introduction of a Private Sector Leasing Scheme, Residential Property Fund and the refurbishment on an existing property to provide temporary accommodation.	A range of initiatives are in place including preventative work and the private sector leasing scheme. have been introduced and this has reduced the number of families in bed and breakfast from 90 in Sept 2015 to 50 in Sept 16. Work has also started on refurbishing the flats to provide additional temporary accommodation.

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8	All decisions are not properly reported to Committee and reports are of inadequate standard.	Delegated authorities are updated and training to all managers on writing reports and processes	All reports are compiled on ModGov which improves editing and structure. Further training will be arranged for the Leadership Team
9	Lack of assurance that the Council have robust arrangements, appropriate approval, and adequate controls in place for the collection of CIL and S106 monies	To review the processes and procedures for recording, collecting and monitoring of all monies due and ensuring there is adequate evidence of compliance.	There have been improvements in the process for the charging and recovery of CIL payments, implemented in Dec 2015. There are clear guidance notes and training for officers. The improved recovery regime has yielded success with significant monies being recovered. The arrangements will be audited in 2017/18.
10	Fraud training and awareness needs to be provided to all staff	Training will be scheduled for 2017	The training commitment remains on the Corporate Governance Action Plan and will be held after project management and contract management training have been held.
11	Health & Safety Risks are not effectively managed	The Leadership Team to ensure that the new risk assessments are being completed in all areas and appropriate action taken to reduce the risks.	The Health & Safety Policies have been updated and reviewed and updated risk assessments completed by all teams.