



Name of meeting: Corporate Governance & Audit Committee
Date: 6th March 2020

Title of report:
Annual Governance Statement 2018/19 - Quarter 3 Action Plan Update

Purpose of report: To provide the Committee with details of Service Director progress in implementing the items in the Action Plan.

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Not applicable
Key Decision - Is it in the Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)?	Not applicable
The Decision - Is it eligible for "call in" by Scrutiny?	Not applicable
Date signed off by Director & name Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	Yes
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal, Governance & Commissioning?	Yes
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr Shabir Pandor

Electoral wards affected: All
Ward councillors consulted: Not applicable
Have you considered GDPR; Yes
Public

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Committee is asked to note progress with Significant Governance Issues in the Action Plan devised in response to the 2018/19 Annual Governance Statement signed off by the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council. Whilst the Action Plan is compiled by Internal Audit, details of progress reflect updates from Service Director Issue owners.
- 1.2 The Statement is a statutory requirement and accompanies the Statement of Accounts in order to provide readers with assurance about the governance and internal control environment in which they have been compiled and to which they relate.
- 1.3 The 2018/19 Statement contained 17 Issues reflecting a focus on self-awareness prior to the Corporate Peer Review Challenge last year. Whilst some are self-contained and reasonably straightforward to address, such as reviewing the Local Code of Corporate Governance, another item on this

meeting's agenda, others are more wide ranging and necessarily more complex to implement and often crucially to embed across the organisation, such as the revised performance management framework.

1.4 Since Quarter 2 significant progress has been reported in the following areas:

- Risk Management,
- Financial Planning & Budgeting,
- Procurement Rule Compliance
- Challenge in Governance Arrangements
- Local Government Ethical Standards
- SAP Access

1.5 A number of Issues are not scheduled to be completed before the end of March.

1.6 A final assessment of the extent of progress with each Issue will be made at year end at which time reflection will determine whether or not to carry forward the Issues into the 2019/20 Statement if they remain "Significant".

Simultaneously, the review will highlight any new or emerging Issues for consideration. Members may wish to begin to reflect on their knowledge of any Issues about which they have a concern that may merit consideration for inclusion in the 2019/20 Statement ahead of the April Meeting.

2. Information required to take a decision

2.1 The detail is contained within the 2018/19 Statement and Action Plan.

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 **Working with People** – None directly

3.2 **Working with Partners** – None directly

3.3 **Place Based Working** – None directly

3.4 **Improving outcomes for Children**– None directly

3.5 **Other (e.g. Legal/Financial or Human Resources)** - Although each of the sub categorisations above suggest no direct implications, the annual review of the effectiveness of the internal control and governance arrangements and Significant Governance Issues arising covers all aspects of the Council's operations, including elements of the above, either specifically, indirectly or on a commissioned basis.

4. Consultees and their opinions

4.1 Executive Team and relevant Service Directors have all been consulted on progress with the 17 Issues.

4.2 The Committee received an update at the end of Quarter 2.

5. Next steps & Timelines

- 5.1 An evaluation of year end progress with the 2018/19 Action Plan is essentially the precursor to the annual review of internal control and governance arrangements and the compilation of the 2019/20 Draft Statement that will be brought to the April meeting.

6. Officer recommendations and reasons

- 6.1 Members are asked to note progress at Quarter 3.

7. Cabinet portfolio holder recommendation

Not applicable.

8. Contact officer

Simon Straker, Audit Manager - 73726

9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

Annual Governance Statement 2018/19.
Action Plan Monitoring, Quarterly Reports of Internal Audit 2019/20

10. Director responsible

Chief Executive.