

Taunton Deane Borough Council

Corporate Governance Committee – 19 September 2016

Corporate Governance Action Plan Update

This matter is the responsibility of Cllr Richard Parrish, Lead Member for Resources

Report Author: Paul Harding, Corporate Strategy & Performance Manager

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report provides an update of progress against the Annual Governance Statement Action Plan.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that:-

- The committee Members are asked to note current progress in relation to completing the actions identified within the Annual Governance Statement.

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3 Risk Assessment

Risk Matrix

Description	Likelihood	Impact	Overall
There is the general risk that if the Council fails to keep its controls and governance arrangements under review they could cease to be appropriate and lead to uncontrolled exposure to high level strategic and operational risks.	Feasible (3)	Major (4)	Medium (12)
<i>The mitigation for this will be for the Council to formally review the internal controls for governance of its affairs, identify opportunities for improvement and implement these.</i>	Unlikely (2)	Significant (3)	Low (6)

4 Background and Full details of the Report

- 4.1 The Annual Governance Statement (AGS) is a statutory document which provides assurance on the governance arrangements in place within the Council. The statement is produced following a review of the council's governance arrangements.

- 4.2 The AGS includes an action plan to address any new governance issues identified by the Corporate Governance Officers Group; relying on reports from internal and external audit as well as their own understanding of the organisation.

5 The Action Plan

- 5.1 The action plan is set out in Appendix A.

6 Links to Corporate Aims / Priorities

- 6.1 There are no direct links to corporate aims/priorities although good governance (of which risk management is a part) underpins good performance.

6 Finance / Resource Implications

- 6.1 None – this is a governance matter.

7 Legal Implications

- 7.1 Regulation 4 of The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 requires that the Council must conduct a review at least once a year of the effectiveness of its systems of internal control and committee must approve an annual governance statement, prepared in accordance with proper practices in relation to internal control.

8 Environmental Impact Implications

- 8.1 There are no direct environmental risks within this report.

9 Safeguarding and/or Community Safety Implications

- 9.1 There are no safeguarding and /or community safety implications associated with this report.

10 Equality and Diversity Implications

- 10.1 There are no equality and diversity implications associated with this report.

11 Social Value Implications

- 11.1 There are no Social Value risks associated with this report.

12 Partnership Implications

- 12.1 There are no direct partnership implications associated with this report.

13 Health and Wellbeing Implications

- 13.1 There are no direct health and wellbeing risk associated with this report.

14 Asset Management Implications

- 14.1 Risk 5 identifies a risk in relation to asset management.

15 Consultation Implications

15.1 There are no Consultation implications associated with this report.

Democratic Path:

- Corporate Governance Committee - Yes
- Corporate Scrutiny – No
- Executive – No
- Full Council – No

Reporting Frequency: Twice yearly

List of Appendices

Appendix A	AGS Action Plan 2015/16
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Contact Officers

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Ref	Action	Update
1	Introduce a corporate process for reviewing and documenting decisions regarding the prioritisation of internal audit recommendations.	Meeting arranged for 7 th October 2016 to progress.
2	Facilitate a self-assessment of the effectiveness of the Audit (WSC) and Corporate Governance Committees (TDBC) - based upon CIPFA guidance 2013 and identify training needs flowing from this.	<p>We intend to undertake Audit committee training in Taunton as we have new Chair and Deputy and following this we will discuss the question of self-assessments with each Chair.</p> <p>In the interim SWAP have organised two identical events to be held on:</p> <p>Wednesday 12th October at Buckfast Abbey, Devon. Tuesday 25th October at Sparkford Motor Museum, Somerset.</p> <p>Both events will start at 9:00am and finish at 1:00pm, with lunch and other refreshments being provided.</p> <p>These training events will consider what makes an effective audit committee, how poor ethics and culture can have a negative impact, the Brexit effect and what it means for our organisations.</p>
3	Undertake a review of the Decision-Making Processes within the Councils to ensure it is efficient and effective in terms of officer and Member involvement.	<p>For WSC a report has been drafted and distributed to the portfolio holder and chair of scrutiny.</p> <p>Further action had been placed on hold pending decision on possible merger due to uncertainty on future of the Councils (either as a stand-alone Councils or a merged Council).</p> <p>Following WSC decision on 7th September 2016 (and TDBC's earlier decision), this item will now be progressed as part of the merger discussions.</p>