



## REPORT of CHIEF EXECUTIVE

to  
PERFORMANCE, GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE  
12 MARCH 2026

### ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT ACTIONS UPDATE

#### 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To update the Committee on the actions identified in the Annual Governance Statement (AGS).

#### 2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee reviews the Annual Governance Statement's table and updates below and comments where necessary.

#### 3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 The AGS in its current format was approved by the Performance, Governance and Audit Committee (PGA) on 10 June 2021. In line with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) best practice, it is reflective of governance matters and forward looking about where we could make improvements.
- 3.2 The report has an updated action plan for the year looking forwards and the Committee agreed that progress on the actions would be reported to and reviewed by the Committee.
- 3.3 The Action Plan is held on the Council's SharePoint system and updated by responsible officers.
- 3.4 The actions highlighted in grey have been previously reported as **completed**.
- 3.5 The current table of actions and officer updates are detailed below for Member consideration.

Title	Owner	Status	Target Completion	Commentary
Build engagement and information sharing with Parish Councils as part of the Local Development Plan (LDP) review work through the new Parish and Town Council	Director of Place, Planning and Growth	Ongoing	01/09/2026	Q3 - The Planning Policy Working Group (PPWG) received an update in December 2025 that the LDP would not make the Governments deadline of submission for examination by 31 December 2026. The current Local Development Scheme said August 2027.

Title	Owner	Status	Target Completion	Commentary
Engagement Forum				As a result, the PPWG asked for a project plan to move from the old 'legacy' system of plan making to the new plan making system. Consultants will be procured to assist with this process. Looking to create a Parish & Town Council Planning forum to brief and discuss planning matters (both development management and planning policy) with the Parish & Town Councils. This is expected to be established in Spring / Summer 2026
Consider the impact of any Local Government Review (LGR) and arrangements for restructure	Chief Executive (CEO)	Ongoing	31/03/2026	Q3 - Government consultation is in progress on the four business cases, scheduled to end 11.1.2026. Officers working across the Essex system to set up workstreams as we approach the 'minded to' decision which is expected in March.
Transforming Together project - Decision Making Accountability (DMA) methodology work, supported by the Local Government Association (LGA) to review the Council's organisation and decision-making processes	Chief Executive	Ongoing	31/03/2026	Q3 - The LGA DMA review is now complete and is being used as part of the restructure implementation. Phase 1 Senior Leadership Team complete with Phase 2 in the planning stages.
Draw out and link all of our policies and their objectives through a review of the LDP (e.g., corporate plan, climate change)	Director of Place, Planning and Growth	Complete	31/12/2027	Q3 - Consultants will be procured to assist with this process. As a result, this target should be closed.
Refresh the risk management framework	Assistant Director - Programmes, Performance and Governance	Complete	31/07/2025	Q1 - 5 June 2025 PGA meeting approved the revised risk management framework, incorporating best practice and suggestions that have been made in audits.

Title	Owner	Status	Target Completion	Commentary
Manager training to support awareness and capacity for Equality Impact Assessments (EQIAs)	Assistant Director - Resources	Complete	01/07/2025	Q1 - EQIA training provider sourced, and training delivered to managers in Quarter 1.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

4.1 The information provided gives progress updates against the key actions defined in the AGS.

#### 5. IMPACT ON PRIORITIES AS SET OUT IN THE CORPORATE PLAN 2025 - 2028

5.1 Good governance will enable delivery of strategic priorities going forwards.

#### 6. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – Not applicable (N/A).
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – N/A.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk (including Fraud Implications)** – Good governance will help minimise our corporate risk for the future.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (human)** – The monitoring and delivery of this item is provided within existing resources.
- (v) **Impact on Resource (Financial)** - The monitoring and delivery of this item is provided within existing resources.
- (vi) **Impact on Devolution / Local Government Reorganisation** - Good governance supports the delivery of strategic goals, corporate priorities and quality services

Background Papers: None.

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