



REPORT of CHIEF EXECUTIVE

to
PERFORMANCE, GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE
4 JUNE 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 (Minute No. 91 refers). 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	Director of Place, Planning and Growth	Complete	01/09/2026	Q4 - Recommended action is closed (completed). The Review of the LDP under the old / 'legacy' system is not able to move forward to meet the Government's deadlines. A Project & Resources Plan is being prepared to inform a decision about a new Local

Title	Owner	Status	Target Completion	Commentary
Council Engagement Forum				Plan under the new system. Additionally, Head of Health Integration and Wellbeing already coordinates a Parish & Town Council Forum, and this can be used for engagement on a new Local Plan.
Consider the impact of any Local Government Review (LGR) and arrangements for restructure	Chief Executive (CEO)	Complete	31/03/2026	Q4 - Phase 2 of the restructure will be officially live as of 1 April 2026. This includes additional vacancies that have been identified as necessary for supporting LGR delivery and officers are satisfied that the action can therefore be closed.
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	Complete	31/03/2026	Q4 - Phase 2 of the restructure will be officially live as of 1 April 2026., The structure is designed on the basis of the LGA Decision Making Accountability and officers are now satisfied that this action can be closed.
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.
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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