

## **Audit, Governance and Standards Committee**

2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019

### **ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT ACTION PLAN 2018/19**

Report by the Head of the Shared Audit Partnership

#### **Purpose**

To update the Committee on progress against the Action Plan agreed in July 2018 to address the areas of improvement identified in the 2017/18 Annual Governance Statement.

#### **Recommendations**

To Resolve that progress against the Annual Governance Statement Action Plan set out in Annex 1 to this report is noted.

#### **Key Points**

- A. Local authorities are required to prepare and publish an Annual Governance Statement (AGS) in accordance with the Solace/CIPFA framework which was published in July 2007 and updated in 2012 and 2016. This is necessary to meet the statutory requirement set out in regulation 6(1) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.
- B. The Audit, Governance and Standards Committee considered and approved the 2017/18 AGS at its meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2018.
- C. A programme of work was drawn up and approved by the Committee to address areas of relative improvement in specific service areas and corporately that were identified in the AGS and this is recorded in the Annual Governance Statement Action Plan (2018/19).
- D. Progress against the Action Plan is monitored by SLT and this Committee on a regular basis and an update is provided at Annex 1.

#### **Action Plan and Assurance Activity**

- 1. One of the roles of the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee is to get assurance that any key governance weaknesses and areas for improvement are properly addressed. At its meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2018, the Committee received a report on progress made in respect of the AGS Action Plan. This showed that whilst some progress had been made, there were still a number of areas where action was outstanding.

2. The action plan developed to support the Annual Governance Statement is attached as **Annex 1** to this report. It has been updated to reflect the progress in delivering the actions since the last meeting.
3. Reasonable progress has been made in taking forward the various actions with two completed and the majority of others nearing completion.
4. Any outstanding actions will be included within the Annual Governance Statement for 2018/19 which will be reported back to Committee on the 30<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

### **Environmental Implications**

5. There are no specific environmental implications arising from this report.

### **Timescale**

Implementation of the actions set out in the Action Plan will be monitored on an on-going basis and a final assessment will be included in the Annual Governance Statement for 2018/19 which will be reported to the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee in July 2019. Any actions still outstanding will be included within the AGS Action plan for 2019/20

### **Resource Implications**

There are no particular resource implications arising from the implementation of the Action Plan other than officer time.

### **Legal Implications**

The Annual Governance Statement (AGS) is produced on an annual basis to meet the statutory requirement set out in regulation 6(1) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

### **Background papers** – held by author Alix Wilson

AGS report to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2018 meeting of Audit, Governance and Standards Committee and update report to the meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> November 2018.