

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT RECOMMENDATION IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS REPORT

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT ACTIONS

Local Code ref	Local Code Measures	Resp	Deadline	Date Impl	Progress Comment
Existing Actions (references updated to revised Local Code)					
B9, B10, F17	Overall, there are several Local Code provisions to ensure that the authority as a whole is open and accessible to the community, service users and its staff and ensure that it has a commitment to openness and transparency in all its dealings including partnerships subject only to the need to preserve confidentiality in those specific circumstances where it is proper and appropriate.	AD Performance and Innovation	CC commenced due to continue over next 2 years.	In progress	Information governance, data quality and transparency will all feature as part of the Customer Connect Programme, particularly the implementation of the new digital platform. In addition, the new platform will also enhance communication with customers, ensure that it is easier to access services and gather feedback.
E3.	Ensuring appropriate financial skills of Officers scored 3 out of 4 with some scope to make financial acumen requirements more explicit.	AD Resources/ HR Manager	CC commenced due to continue over next 2 years.	In progress	The Customer Connect process will address issues around required competencies corporately. This is a medium term strategic project which also links in to Customer Connect.

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New actions					
Local Code ref	Local Code Measure	Resp	Deadline	Date Impl	Progress/Comment
G7 & CIPFA stmt. on role of CFO	<p>Enable the Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer) to bring influence to bear on all relevant decisions and provide advice on the levels of reserves and balances to be retained.</p> <p>The governance requirement in the CIPFA Statement is that CFOs should be professionally qualified and report directly to the Chief Executive and be a member of the leadership team with status at least equivalent to other members. Any different arrangement should be explained publicly in the AGS. The difference, the reasons for it and how these arrangements deliver the same impact should be included in the AGS.</p>	Chief Executive /CFO	Subject to Customer Connect corporate structure review)	In progress	The CFO has presented a view of the increased risks surrounding the current reporting line. Council on 10 October 2018 approved the new senior leadership structure for consultation as part of the Customer Connect process. The consultation period ended on 16 November 2018 and feedback is being considered before finalisation. This report clearly states the reason for the positioning and reporting lines of the Section 151 Officer in the future proposed Council structure, and how this reasoning was determined and widespread in the local government sector, to mitigate and reduce risk.
C7/F16	<p>Link service plans to agreed measures and targets within the Council plan (including Social Value)</p> <p>Set out clear financial and contract procedure rules, kept under review as part of the overall Constitution of the Council.</p>	SMT/ operational managers	To be incorporated into 2019/20 service plans	In progress	Embedding of procurement practices into service planning (eg identifying contracts in plans) along with wider consideration of social value around delivery options.