

**AUDIT COMMITTEE
23 MARCH 2021**

PROGRESS UPDATE ON THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT ACTION PLAN

Cabinet Member Cllr Bob Deed, Leader
Responsible Officer Catherine Yandle, Operations Manager for Performance, Governance and Health & Safety

Reason for Report: To provide the Committee with an update on progress made against the Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 Action Plan.

RECOMMENDATION(S): The Committee note the progress update

Relationship to the Corporate Plan: Having good governance arrangements and an effective internal control environment is a fundamental element of being a well-managed council.

Financial Implications: None arising from this report.

Budget and Policy Framework: None arising from this report.

Legal Implications: None arising from this report.

Risk Assessment: Failure to monitor progress against the Annual Governance Statement Action Plan could result in comment from the external auditors when they next review the Annual Governance Statement.

Equality Impact Assessment: No equality issues identified for this report.

Impact on Climate Change: No impacts identified for this report.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members of the Committee with an update on the progress that has been made against the actions in the Annual Governance Statement Action Plan since the Audit Committee approved it on 11 August 2020.
- 1.2 The Action Plan is attached as Appendix A and progress updates have been noted on the document. There were 7 issues identified in the 2019/20 Annual Governance Statement which required remedial action.
- 1.3 2 actions are now completed. Progress has been made on all the other issues identified but note there is a separate action plan for the 3 Rivers Development Ltd. governance issues.
- 1.4 Progress against the Action Plan is reported at each Audit Committee. There is a column for RAG status to make progress clearer. Amendments since the last report are shown as tracked changes so they are highlighted.

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Circulation of the Report: Leadership Team and Cabinet Member

List of Background Papers: None