

Report to Audit Committee

Subject: Progress on the Action Plan Determined by the Annual Governance Statement 2017/18

Date: 28 May 2019

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1. Purpose of the Report

To update members of the Audit Committee on the achievement of specific actions outlined within the Annual Governance Statement 2017/18.

Recommendations:

That Members:

- note the progress of actions identified within the Annual Governance Statement 2017/18.

2. Background

The Audit Committee held on 24 July 2018 received a report on the Annual Governance Statement 2017/18, which included specific improvement actions to be addressed during 2018/19.

There were a total of five specific actions approved, and the progress made on these throughout the year is as follows:

- Constitutional Changes – Partially completed –A review group was established as part of the *Dynamic Council* programme and updates to a number of sections of the Constitution have been drafted and considered by the Dynamic Council Programme Board. These need further consideration by SLT before being presented to Members.
- Commercialisation – Partially completed – this has significantly progressed with a new Commercial Property Investment Strategy being approved by full Council in April 2019; a new partnership arrangement which is delivering improved procurement arrangements with a detailed contracts register and

work programme; a new pet cremation service launched on 1 April 2019; an additional commercial arborist team; full review of fees and charges and the identification of new income streams; and investment in the Local Authority Property Fund.

- Member and Officer Training – completed – training on the General Data Protection Regulations was delivered in year.
- Health and Safety Risk Assessments – completed – the new Assessnet system has been rolled out and training provided to all managers. So far there are 600 electronic risk assessments on the system, and there is an ongoing requirement to periodically update them.
- External Economy – completed – this action related to the delivery of a balanced Medium Term Financial Plan which was approved by full Council on 4 March 2019. However the challenge still remains to implement and deliver the approved budget efficiency actions.

3. Resource Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

4. Appendices

None.