



Audit & Governance Committee  
20 November 2024

## Annual Governance Statement - Half Year Update

### Purpose of the report:

This report provides an update on progress on the improvement areas identified in the 2023/24 Annual Governance Statement for monitoring purposes.

### Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Committee confirm whether it is satisfied with the progress made so far.

### Half year update

1. The 2023/24 Annual Governance Statement identified a number of governance issues which were detailed in a 2024/25 improvement plan. The Annual Governance Statement is attached at Annex 1 for ease of reference. Updates on many different areas of governance are continuously reported to senior management and members through various groups, boards and committees. Annex 2 provides a summary of progress to date on the key governance risks identified in the Annual Governance Statement 2023/24 approved by the Audit and Governance Committee.
2. The report has been discussed with the Governance Panel and the Corporate Leadership Team and their comments are incorporated.

### Financial and value for money implications:

3. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Continued improvements in governance will support the delivery of the council's objectives.

**Equalities and Diversity Implications:**

4. There are no direct equalities implications of this report.

**Risk Management Implications:**

5. Strong governance arrangements support the council in the effective delivery of services and achievement of objectives.

**Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer:**

6. There are no direct legal implications of this report.

**Next steps:**

7. Continued progress on the areas within the AGS action plan will be reviewed as part of the annual review of governance and the development of the 2024/25 Annual Governance Statement.

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**Sources/background papers:**

2023/24 Annual Governance Statement, Code of Corporate Governance, CIPFA/SOLACE framework *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government*.

**Annexes/Appendices:**

- Annex 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2023/24
  - Annex 2 - Annual Governance Statement - 2024/25 Action Plan progress update
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