

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**SCRUTINY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE – 22 JANUARY 2019**

**CORPORATE GOVERNANCE – ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2018 – UPDATED ACTION PLAN**

**REPORT BY VIVIEN SMITH, HEAD OF STRATEGIC POLICY, TRANSFORMATION AND PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM**

**ABSTRACT**

This report presents an update on the Annual Governance Statement action plan for review and comment.

**1. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Scrutiny and Audit Committee review and scrutinise the contents of the update report.

**2. ALIGNMENT TO THE LOCAL OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN/CORPORATE PLAN**

This report supports the council’s commitment to the principles of good corporate governance, which in turn supports services in the delivery of local outcomes set out in the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and the Council Plan.

**3. BACKGROUND**

The final 2017/18 Annual Governance Statement was included in the Council’s [2017/18 audited Annual Accounts](#), which were approved by this committee on 25 September 2018 (report 303/18 refers). The Annual Governance Statement included an action plan summarising developments to be taken forward during 2018/19 to strengthen the council’s corporate governance.

**4. CURRENT POSITION**

There are 6 actions in the 2017/18 Annual Governance Statement action plan. Planned completion dates range from December 2018 to June 2019. There has been some slippage, but work is in progress to address all of the improvement areas.

The table below summarises the position at 10 January 2019.

Area for improvement	Lead Officer / Planned Completion Date	Update at 30 November 2018
1. Operational schemes of delegation across the Council will be further reviewed and updated during 2018	Manager Governance, Risk & Scrutiny Dec 2018	An updated corporate template has been issued to all services.  In order to develop a full corporate scheme of delegation, further work will be undertaken to link with the Scheme of Delegation to Officers within Standing Orders and Related Documents. This will be completed before 31 March 2019.

Area for improvement	Lead Officer / Planned Completion Date	Update at 30 November 2018
2. Monitor completion of the actions recommended in the internal audit review of the user account and access management controls within the Council's Integra finance system.	Service Leader Internal Audit March 2019	All of the actions have been completed apart from 3, which all have a due date of 31 March 2019. Progress with completion of actions is therefore satisfactory.
3. Monitor progress in completing the Scrutiny & Audit Committee action plan	Manager Governance, Risk & Scrutiny March 2019	An update will be reported to the Scrutiny and Audit Committee as part of the 2018/19 self-assessment.
4. Revise the Risk Management Strategy And Update the Corporate Risk Register	Service Leader Governance & Change Oct 2018  Corporate Leadership Team Dec 2018	The revised Strategy was endorsed by CLT in November 2018. It will be submitted to the Policy & Resources Committee for approval in January 2019. The Strategy and the Corporate Risk Register will be submitted to the S&A committee in March 2019.
5. Monitor the developing governance framework of the IJB	Corporate Governance Officers Group June 2019	The Council/ IJB have put in place a liaison group which is responsible for overseeing the governance and partnership arrangements between the two organisations. Terms of Reference for the liaison group have been drafted for agreement by the respective leadership teams.
6. Procure a new internal audit co-source contract.	Service Leader Internal Audit December 2018	The contract has been published, with a closing date of 16 January 2019.

A further update will be reported to this committee in June 2019 as part of the annual corporate governance review.

## 5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications associated with the terms of this report.

**NOTE:** No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

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