

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE - 15 JUNE 2016

REPORT BY HEAD OF STRATEGIC FINANCE AND PROPERTY

UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF 2015/2016 ANNUAL  
GOVERNANCE STATEMENT ACTION PLAN

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

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**Purpose/Summary of Report**

- The 2014/15 Annual Governance Statement includes three measures to enhance East Herts Council's internal control framework during 2015/16. The Audit Committee is requested to consider the content of **Essential Reference Paper 'B'** that provides details of proposed actions that need to take place prior to confirmation being given that adequate and effective controls are fully in place.

**RECOMMENDATION FOR AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE:**

**That:**

<b>(A)</b>	<b>the Committee reviews the progress made against implementing the action plan contained in the 2014/15 Annual Governance Statement and advises of any concerns.</b>
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1.0 Background

1.1 The Annual Governance Statement Action Plan has identified key responsible officers and timescales and is monitored through reports to this Committee. Actions needed to address issues have been identified and are monitored on a R(ed), A(mber) and G(reen) basis.

2.0 Report

2.1 For the purposes of the Annual Governance Statement, internal

control is being interpreted in its broadest sense covering both financial and managerial controls that ensure that the implementation of East Herts Council's vision and priorities is being managed effectively.

2.2 Position statements are reflected in **Essential Reference Paper 'B'** following consultation with key responsible officers. The position statement contains a traffic light system whereby:

- "Green" indicates that the planned action has been achieved,
- "Amber" indicates that satisfactory progress is being made towards achieving the planned action, and
- "Red" is where a planned action has not been achieved or that progress is unsatisfactory.

2.3 The Annual Governance Statement Action Plan was approved by the Audit Committee on 23 September 2015.

2.4 The following updated positions are highlighted:

- All actions in respect of the Asset Management Plan have now been completed such that the RAG Status can now be shown as "Green".
- In respect of Welfare reforms, the lowering of the Benefit CAP has recently been delayed until the autumn of 2016, meaning a revised target date of October 2016. Work on all the other reforms takes place on a daily basis.
- In respect of the development of the District Plan further revised dates are now in place.

2.5 This report was also considered by Leadership Team on 16 May 2016.

### 3.0 Implications/Consultations

3.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within Essential Reference Paper 'A'.

### Background Papers

Update on Implementation of 2015/2016 Annual Governance Statement Action Plan - Audit Committee 16 March 2016.

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