

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE - 23 JANUARY 2013

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF 2012/2013 ANNUAL  
GOVERNANCE STATEMENT ACTION PLAN

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

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**Purpose/Summary of Report**

- The 2011/12 Annual Governance Statement includes nine measures to enhance East Herts Council's internal control framework during 2012/13. 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.

<b><u>RECOMMENDATION FOR AUDIT COMMITTEE: That:</u></b>	
<b>(A)</b>	<b>The Committee reviews the progress made against implementing the action plan contained in the 2011/12 Annual Governance Statement and advises of any concerns.</b>

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 One area is highlighted:

- Shared Support Services governance arrangements- an amber status has been allocated to reflect the agreement by Management Teams at East Herts Council and Stevenage Borough Council to explore joint working. This has moved from a red status.

### 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 2012/13 Annual Governance Statement  
Action Plan – Audit Committee 21 November 2012.

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