

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE - 19 MARCH 2014

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF 2013/2014 ANNUAL
GOVERNANCE STATEMENT ACTION PLAN

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

Purpose/Summary of Report

- The 2012/13 Annual Governance Statement includes seven measures to enhance East Herts Council's internal control framework during 2013/14. 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 COMMITTEE:

That:

(A)	the report now submitted, detailing progress made to implement the action plan contained in the 2012/13 Annual Governance Statement, be received.
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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 Since the previous Audit Committee the current positions have been updated but there have been insufficient movements to change the RAG status of any actions which all remain at Amber. The updated ERP 'B' template was also considered by Corporate Management Team on 25 February 2014.
- 2.4 There are two items of slippage to report:
- The development of an IT Strategy has been put back by two months due to priority work being carried out to ensure compliance with the Public Services Network.
 - The review of the operation of all shared service partnership arrangements has been put back by six months in order to allow for the shared IT Service to become further embedded.
- 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 2013/ 2014 Annual Governance Statement
Action Plan – Audit Committee 22 January 2014.

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