

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE - 21 JANUARY 2015

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF 2014/2015 ANNUAL  
GOVERNANCE STATEMENT ACTION PLAN

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

---

**Purpose/Summary of Report**

- The 2013/14 Annual Governance Statement includes eleven measures to enhance East Herts Council's internal control framework during 2014/15. 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:**

<b>(A)</b>	<b>The Committee reviews the progress made against implementing the action plan contained in the 2013/14 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 The Annual Governance Statement Action Plan was approved by the Audit Committee on 24 September 2014. Current positions have been reflected in **Essential Reference Paper 'B'**.
- 2.4 One specific area is highlighted:
- The status against the long standing risk of failure to deliver an effective, efficient and economic IT service is now shown as "Green". This is as a result of works undertaken by SIAS, reported elsewhere on the Agenda. All outstanding high risk IT audit recommendations have been implemented and SIAS are satisfied that resilient IT business continuity arrangements are now in place.
- 2.5 There have been insufficient movements to change the RAG status of any other actions. The updated positions were considered by Corporate Management Team on 16 December 2014. Minor revisions have been made to some of the target dates to reflect expected delivery of reports from SIAS that will have a direct bearing on several of the RAG assessments.
- 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 2014/2015 Annual Governance Statement  
Action Plan – Audit Committee 26 November 2014.

Contact Member: Councillor Tony Jackson  
Leader of the Council  
Ext 1642  
[anthony.jackson@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:anthony.jackson@eastherts.gov.uk)

Contact Officer: Adele Taylor  
Director of Finance and Support Services  
Ext 1406  
[adele.taylor@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:adele.taylor@eastherts.gov.uk)

Report Author: Chris Gibson  
Head of Governance and Risk Management  
Ext 2073  
[chris.gibson@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:chris.gibson@eastherts.gov.uk)