

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE - 25 NOVEMBER 2015

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

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

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

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 COMMITTEE:

That:

(A)	the Committee reviews the progress made against implementing the action plan contained in the 2014/15 Annual Governance Statement and advises of any concerns; and
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(B)	the SMART targets attached to actions be approved.
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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. Officers have subsequently expanded on the details and further broken down each action such that each action is now SMART, as requested by Members. To date, this has not been possible against the Welfare Reform action as no clear time lines are yet known.
- 2.4 This is the first position statement report since approval of the Annual Governance Statement. Current positions have been reflected and a RAG status is shown against each action. The report was also considered by Corporate Management Team on 10 November 2015.

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

Annual Governance Statement 2014/ 2015 – Audit Committee 23 September 2015.

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