

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE - 20 JANUARY 2016

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 progress made against implementing the action plan contained in the 2014/15 Annual Governance Statement be reviewed and Members' concerns be highlighted.
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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:
- An Asset Management IT system has recently been procured such that the RAG Status can now be shown as "Green".
 - A draft Asset Management Plan has been considered by CMT and by the Asset Management Working Group in December 2015.
 - In respect of Welfare reforms, the lowering of the Benefit CAP has recently been delayed until the autumn of 2016.
 - The District Plan Executive Panel has agreed a date in April 2016 to consider the District Plan pre-submission document for consultation in June/July 2016.
- 2.5 This report was also considered by Corporate Management Team on 5 January 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 25 November 2015.

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