

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE - 16 MARCH 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 any Members' concerns be recorded.
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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:
- A draft Asset Management Plan will be submitted for consideration by Corporate Business Scrutiny Committee in March 2016 and then to the Executive in April 2016.
 - In respect of Welfare reforms, the target date has been revised to October 2016 as some significant changes will not now take place until the autumn of 2016.
 - Revised dates have been put against development of the District Plan, following an advisory meeting with PINS.
- 2.5 This report was also considered by Corporate Management Team on 23 February 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 20 January 2016.

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