

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 23 NOVEMBER 2016

REPORT BY THE HEAD OF STRATEGIC FINANCE AND PROPERTY

UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF ANNUAL GOVERNANCE
STATEMENT 2016/17 ACTION PLAN

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

Purpose/Summary of Report:

- The 2015/16 Annual Governance Statement contains two 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.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE
COMMITTEE:**

That:

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| (A) | the Committee reviews the progress made against implementing the action plan contained in the 2015/16 Annual Governance Statement and advises of any recommendations. |
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1 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 Report

- 2.1 For the purposes of the Annual Governance Statement, internal control is being interpreted in its broadest sense covering both financial and management 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 and Governance Committee on 213 September 2016.
- 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.

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 2015/16 – Audit Committee 21 September 2016.

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