

**Wiltshire Council**

**Audit and Governance Committee**

**10 February 2021**

---

**Subject: Governance action update**

---

**Executive Summary**

The Annual Governance Statement for Wiltshire Council demonstrates how the Council is meeting the principles of good governance adopted in its Local Code of Corporate Governance (LCCG). Following the agreement of the Annual Governance Statement at the end of last year, this report provides a first update on the current status of improvement actions identified in the Annual Governance Statement for 2020.

**Proposal(s)**

Audit and Governance Committee is asked to consider the current status of improvement actions identified in Annual Governance Statement, as set out at **Appendix 1**.

**Reason for Proposal**

In considering the draft Local Code of Corporate Governance in 2019, Audit Committee agreed to receive quarterly updates on the implementation of improvement actions identified in the Annual Governance Statement. Consideration of these actions will inform the development of the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) that the council is required to produce for 2020/21.

**Andy Brown**

Interim Corporate Director, Resources

**Ian Gibbons**

Director, Legal, Electoral and Registration Services (Monitoring Officer)

**Jo Pitt**

Director, Human Resources and Organisational Development

## **Wiltshire Council**

### **Audit and Governance Committee**

**10 February 2021**

---

**Subject: Governance action update**

---

#### **Purpose of Report**

1. To consider the current status of improvement actions identified in the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) and emerging themes to capture in the AGS for 2020.

#### **Background**

2. Wiltshire Council agreed a revised Local Code of Corporate Governance in 2019.
3. In considering the draft Local Code of Corporate Governance, Audit Committee agreed to receive regular updates on the implementation of improvement actions identified in the Annual Governance Statement. Consideration of these actions will inform the development of the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) that the council is required to produce for 2020/21.

#### **Main Considerations**

4. In 2019/20's Annual Governance Statement the Council identified a number of areas where further improvements could be made to strengthen its governance framework. It should be noted that these areas are not to be regarded as failures, rather examples of issues where scope for further improvement has been identified. In many cases, work is already well underway to address these areas for improvement.
5. The governance of the Council continues to be monitored by Cabinet, Audit and Governance and other councillor committees and the Council's Corporate Leadership Team. In addition, a Corporate Governance (officer) Group chaired by the Monitoring Officer has now been established to steer the development of good corporate governance at the council. Its terms of reference are as follows:
  - a) To monitor and review the council's decision-making and governance arrangements (including those relating to partnerships and arms-length-bodies) ensuring that they reflect the principles set out in the Local Code of Corporate Governance.
  - b) To ensure the provision of clear and comprehensive information, guidance and training across the council so that our governance arrangements are: widely understood, followed consistently and support efficient and effective decision-making, planning, consulting recording; and publishing.

- c) To ensure the council's Annual Governance Statement is evidence-based and effective and its recommendations for improvement are delivered.
  - d) To oversee the ongoing review of the council's Constitution.
  - e) To ensure the provision of an accessible corporate portal for:
    - policies, strategies and plans
    - byelaws
    - council orders (alcohol restrictions/traffic/footpath orders etc)
    - contracts
    - partnership arrangements
    - statutory powers
    - programme management arrangements including gateway processes.
6. A quarterly update on progress with the improvement actions identified in the Annual Governance Statement 2019-20 is included at **Appendix 1**. This document will be kept live and updated and inform the development of the AGS for 2020/21.

Report Authors:

**Andy Brown** - Interim Corporate Director, Resources; **Ian Gibbons** - Director, Legal, Electoral and Registration Services (Monitoring Officer); **Jo Pitt** - Director, Human Resources and Organisational Development; **David Bowater** – Senior Corporate Support Manager

---

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 Quarterly LCCG AGS update