

# TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

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| <b>Report to:</b>            | Audit Committee                             |
| <b>Date of Meeting:</b>      | 22 March 2017                               |
| <b>Subject:</b>              | Monitoring of Significant Governance Issues |
| <b>Report of:</b>            | Sara Freckleton, Borough Solicitor          |
| <b>Corporate Lead:</b>       | Sara Freckleton, Borough Solicitor          |
| <b>Lead Member:</b>          | Councillor Robert Vines                     |
| <b>Number of Appendices:</b> | 1   |

## **Executive Summary:**

The report attaches, at Appendix 1, a table incorporating the Significant Governance Issues and the action to be taken to address them which were identified in the Council's Annual Governance Statement (AGS) approved by the Audit Committee on 22 June 2016. The table indicates the progress on those specified actions by 1 March 2016, to enable the Audit Committee to monitor progress on these actions as required by the Annual Governance Statement.

## **Recommendation:**

**The Committee is asked to CONSIDER the information set out in Appendix 1 and to review progress against the actions.**

## **Reasons for Recommendation:**

To comply with the requirements of the Review of Effectiveness of the Council's Annual Governance Statement.

## **Resource Implications:**

None arising from this report.

## **Legal Implications:**

None arising from this report.

## **Risk Management Implications:**

Risk Management is an integral part of the Corporate Governance Framework and actions taken to mitigate the Significant Governance Issues will also help mitigate related business risks.

## **Performance Management Follow-up:**

Further review by Audit Committee when approving the 2016/2017 Annual Governance Statement will take place in June 2017

## **Environmental Implications:**

None.

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND**

- 1.1** On the 22 June 2016, the Audit Committee approved the Council's Annual Governance Statement for 2015/16 which forms part of the Annual Statement of Accounts. The purpose of the Statement is to provide assurance that the Council's Governance Framework is adequate and effective.
- 1.2** As part of the Annual Governance Statement, the Council is required to identify the Significant Governance Issues faced by the Council and to set out the proposed actions to be taken to address those issues and the timescale within which those actions will be taken. The role of the Audit Committee is to formally monitor progress on actions arising from the Significant Governance Issues identified in the statement.

## **2.0 SIGNIFICANT GOVERNANCE ISSUES**

- 2.1** The table set out at Appendix 1 comprises the Significant Governance Issues identified and the proposed action and timescale, with the addition of a further column which indicates the progress by 1 March 2017. Of the five governance issues identified in the last Annual Governance Statement, one is likely to be completely addressed within the target deadline set. There is some progress on the others, although the actions will not have been completed and implemented within the original target date, and the remaining one has not, for reasons explained in the final column of the Appendix, been addressed. In each case where the actions are not fully completed, progress has been delayed due to insufficient staff capacity and revised completion dates are suggested which into take account resourcing and other priorities. These governance issues will be carried forward to the 2016/17 Annual Governance Statement which will be considered by the Committee at its next meeting.

## **3.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 3.1** None.

## **4.0 CONSULTATION**

- 4.1** The Corporate Governance Group has been consulted on progress on the proposed actions.

## **5.0 RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES/STRATEGIES**

- 5.1** Code of Corporate Governance.

## **6.0 RELEVANT GOVERNMENT POLICIES**

- 6.1** None.

## **7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (Human/Property)**

- 7.1** None arising from this report.

## **8.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS (Social/Community Safety/Cultural/ Economic/ Environment)**

8.1 None.

9.0 **IMPACT UPON (Value For Money/Equalities/E-Government/Human Rights/Health And Safety)**

9.1 None.

10.0 **RELATED DECISIONS AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT FACTS**

10.1 Audit Committee 22 June 2016 – Approval of Annual Governance Statement 2015/16  
Council 24 June 2008 – Approval of Code of Corporate Governance

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**Background Papers:** Annual Governance Statement 2015/16

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**Appendices:** Appendix 1 - Monitoring of Significant Governance Issues 2015/16