

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Audit and Governance Committee
Date of Meeting:	27 March 2024
Subject:	Monitoring of Significant Governance Issues
Report of:	Head of Service: Audit and Governance
Head of Service/Director:	Director: Corporate Resources
Lead Member:	Lead Member for Corporate Governance
Number of Appendices:	One

Executive Summary:

Every Council must ensure that its business is conducted within the law and proper standards, public money is safeguarded and used economically, efficiently and effectively. Governance of the Council is reviewed regularly by the Corporate Governance Group and is formally reported through an Annual Governance Statement (AGS). The 2022/23 AGS was approved by Audit and Governance Committee on 27 September 2023. Reported within the AGS were eight significant governance issues. Appendix 1 of this report provides a high level overview in implementing the necessary actions to address the significant governance issues identified.

Recommendation:

To CONSIDER the monitoring report on the significant governance Issues identified in the Annual Governance Statement and to review progress against the actions.

Financial Implications:

None arising directly from this report.

Legal Implications:

None arising directly from this report.

Environmental and Sustainability Implications:

None arising directly from this report.

Resource Implications (including impact on equalities):

None arising directly from this report.

Safeguarding Implications:

None arising directly from this report.

Impact on the Customer:

None arising directly from this report.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.2 On 27 September 2023 the Audit and Governance Committee approved the Council's Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for 2022/23. The purpose of this statement is to provide assurance that the Council's governance framework is adequate and effective

1.3 As part of the AGS, the Council is required to identify any 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 and Governance Committee is to 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 as at March 2024.

3.0 CONSULTATION

3.1 None

4.0 ASSOCIATED RISKS

4.1 If the Council does not progress the actions identified then there is the risk of a continued governance weakness leading to outcomes not being achieved.

5.0 MONITORING

5.1 Updates are provided to each Audit and Governance Committee. Individual actions may be monitored through other parts of the Council's governance framework. For example, the Licensing review is a project monitored through the internal Programme Board, development of the Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion policy is a workstream within the new 'High Performing Organisation' project framework.

6.0 RELEVANT COUNCIL PLAN PRIORITIES/COUNCIL POLICIES/STRATEGIES

6.1 Individual actions may indirectly inform or support the current Council Plan (2020-24) and the new emerging Council Plan (2024-2028)

Background Papers: Audit and Governance Committee 27 September 2023 – approval of Annual Governance Statement 2022/23

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Appendices: Appendix 1 – Progress on Significant Governance Issues