



AUDIT COMMITTEE

Public

Date of Meeting: 8th April 2009

Title: Annual Governance Statement Action Plan

Report of: Director of Corporate Services

Report reference: CORP 3/09

Summary:

This report appraises Members of progress made on the above Action Plan.

Recommendations:

Members are requested to note the attached Action Plan and the current position relating to each of the areas that have been identified.

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ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT - ACTION PLAN

Code of Corporate Governance - Background

The CIPFA/SOLACE Framework document “Delivering Good Governance in Local Government” requires the Council to revise and update its Code of Corporate Governance and to produce an Annual Governance Statement signed by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive.

The Framework also requires the Council to draw up an Action Plan in order to address weaknesses and to ensure that continuous improvement of the system of control is in place.

These documents were reported to Members of this Committee on 23rd June 2008 - reports CORP26/08 and CORP27/08 refer.

Action Plan

An updated Action Plan is attached to this report as **Appendix A** for Members' information.

Those actions that were identified in the Annual Governance Statement as “significant” have been identified thus (**) on Appendix A.

In accordance with established practice, this Action Plan is monitored and the updated status is reported to Members of this Committee at each meeting.

There are no new areas of risk arising from the Audit reviews or from the Risk Registers that need to be drawn to Members' attention.

Recommendation

Members are requested to note the attached Action Plan and the current position relating to each of the areas that have been identified.

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APPENDIX A

ACTION PLAN - UPDATED 26th MARCH 2009.

	CURRENT STATUS AND ACTION REQUIRED	RESPONSIBILITY	TARGET DATE
1	Ensure that the Learning City Strategy is finalised. One of the focuses will be on a commitment to the development of staff.	Head of Policy and Performance	Actioned. The Learning City Policy Statement was agreed by the Executive on 16 th February and was adopted by Council in March. A more detailed report about how this priority is being delivered will be presented to the Community and Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
2	Community Empowerment Pilots to be developed	Head of Policy and Performance	Ongoing - Project planning and implementation underway in Harraby. Project team of all agencies managing and developing the project. Stakeholder Advisory Group formed – local people and community representatives. A number of activities and outcomes detailed in project plan, one of which is to produce a Neighbourhood Action Plan by Spring 2009. Outline project plan developed for Longtown by the three tiers of local government, to be monitored and progressed by Strategic Planning Group (officers and Ward Members). Main aim of this pilot will be to support community led planning (parish

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			planning). Arthuret and Kirkandrews on Esk Parish Councils agreed to take part in the pilot Community Planning Group formed to promote wider involvement of the local community.
3 (**)	Ensure that the National Officer Code of Conduct is adopted in due course.	Head of Personnel and Development	Ongoing. A consultation on a proposed National Code of Conduct has recently concluded. It came from the Government and the proposal is to introduce a statutory Code of Conduct for all local government employees. This Authority has responded to the consultation as have our trade unions. We await the outcome of the consultation before progressing the matter further. The Employment Panel may need to become involved.
4	Policy for "Confidential Reporting" Needs to be updated to reflect current staff-structure.	Head of Personnel and Development.	Actioned – the new Policy is now in place.
5 (**)	Review arrangements for extracting the figures from the ledger and ensuring that the Service Expenditure Analysis disclosed in the accounts is in accordance with the	Director of Corporate Services	Ongoing. A full review will be undertaken each year, before the accounts are closed, to ensure that the Authority complies with any changes

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	Best Value Accounting Code of Practice.		arising from revisions to the Best Value Accounting Code of practice.
6	Ensure that there are robust arrangements for partnership monitoring and governance relating to Carlisle Renaissance.	Director of Legal and Democratic Services	The Overview and Scrutiny Committees have agreed a frequency of reporting to them by the Director of Carlisle renaissance and the Chair of the Board. The Authority also has two representatives on the Renaissance Board – the Leader and the Portfolio Holder. The Town Clerk and Chief Executive is able to attend the Board meetings as an observer. The Collaboration Agreement has now been agreed by all parties and is in the process of being signed. Financial monitoring is undertaken as a routine function as part of the overall budgetary monitoring and reporting process