



AUDIT COMMITTEE

Public

Date of Meeting: 22nd June 2009

Title: Annual Governance Statement Action Plan

Report of: Director of Corporate Services

Report reference: CORP 22/09

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.

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

APPENDIX A

ACTION PLAN - UPDATED 10th June 2009.

	CURRENT STATUS AND ACTION REQUIRED	RESPONSIBILITY	TARGET DATE
1	Community Empowerment Pilots to be developed	Head of Policy and Performance	Ongoing – We are working towards producing an Action plan as part of the Harraby Pilot by the summer, although it will be determined by when local people feel they are ready and able to work with us to prioritise issues from their area. We are also working very closely with the County Council and many others – PCT, Police, Fire, CHA and the voluntary sector – they are all on the project team. Regular contact is made with the County from a more strategic viewpoint to keep informed about County-wide developments and how they influence and are influenced by what we are doing in Carlisle. There is also a main contact in the County for the Longtown Pilot where we are working with the Parish Council to support the community-led planning process and determining where best the empowerment pilot can “add value”.

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2 (**)	Ensure that the National Officer Code of Conduct is adopted in due course.	Head of Personnel and Development	Ongoing. A national statutory Code of Conduct for all local government employees has been awaited for some considerable time, and no date for its production is yet known. In view of the delay, the Head of Personnel and Development said that we are considering the production of our own Code. The situation will be reviewed in August.
3	Ensure that there are robust arrangements for partnership monitoring and governance relating to Carlisle Renaissance.	Director of Legal and Democratic Services	Ongoing. 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 signed. Financial monitoring is undertaken as a routine function as part of the overall budgetary monitoring and reporting process