

TITLE	Annual Governance Statement 2017-18 - Progress Report
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Audit Committee on 7 November 2018
WARD	None Specific
LEAD OFFICER	Andrew Moulton, Assistant Director-Governance (and Chief Audit Executive)

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 that came into force on 1 April 2015 require authorities to prepare an Annual Governance Statement (AGS) in accordance with proper practices in relation to accounts. The purpose of the AGS is to comply with this legal requirement and provide a transparent and accurate representation of the council's governance arrangements, highlighting issues that the Council wishes to improve.

This is an update on the progress of the issues highlighted within the 2017/18 AGS process. This will contribute towards the formation of the Chief Audit Executive's annual audit opinion on the Council's internal control and governance framework, which will form part of the 2018/19 Annual Governance Statement process.

RECOMMENDATION

The Audit Committee is asked to note the 2017/18 Annual Governance Statement Report progress report (attached).

SUMMARY OF REPORT

The report summarises the progress in the first 6 months of 2018/19 on the issues highlighted in the 2017-18 Annual Governance Statement, and enables the Committee to discharge its oversight function in relation to these.

The report provides the opportunity for the Assistant Director, Governance (and Chief Audit Executive) to provide details of the progress to date and highlight any areas of on-going weakness that the Committee should be aware of.

Background

The 2017/18 AGS was produced by the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) and this review of progress of the issues highlighted has also been agreed by CLT. This followed consideration of the 'progress narrative' produced by the relevant Directors / interim Directors, in conjunction with their senior management teams.

This Progress Report facilitates the Audit Committee in holding management to account for managing weaknesses identified as part of the 2017-18 AGS process.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	£0	Yes	Revenue
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	£0	Yes	Revenue
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	£0	Yes	Revenue

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

Not Applicable

Cross-Council Implications

Not Applicable

Reasons for considering the report in Part 2

Not Applicable

List of Background Papers

Annual Governance Statement 2017-18

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