

Wokingham Borough Council
Audit Committee Report
Annual Governance Statement (AGS) -
Progress on 2017-18 Actions

	AGS Actions	Progress as at mid-October 2018
Chief Executive	<p>1 The key risk of the new Commercial Property team currently is that of resource. The re-structure has enabled an additional two members of staff to come into the team together with a rationalisation of salaries which will lead to rapid recruitment of two long outstanding vacant posts. Through this transition period there is a concern about lack of resource which leads to a risk to process and control. Even when all of these are recruited to, management of expectations will be necessary to ensure safe delivery and efficient operation.</p> <p>2 Within the Commercial Property team, there has been an exception around the process for collecting and managing rental income which will be partially resolved when Technology Forge module becomes live. However, there is a limited process for understanding the detail of rental payments which is impacting upon our ability to properly manage the property portfolio. The issue is live with work being done to understand and resolve.</p>	<p>Recruitment process commenced in May 2018. So far, one successful placement out of the 3, who started in mid-September. A further process is being developed to recruit to the other 2 roles.</p> <p>Issue is being addressed, with a process review underway being led by Finance, with 21C involvement.</p>
Director of Corporate Services	<p>3 There have been several data breaches from housing services; these have been reported in line with the Council's policy and procedure.</p>	<p>To date in 2018/19, there have been no reportable breaches in this service area. Staff have undertaken data protection training earlier this year as part of GDPR implementation.</p>
Interim Director - Environment	<p>4 Managing a safe transition from the current Highways Alliance contract to a new contract commencing in 2019 whilst maintaining effective working relationships. Lack of engagement from partners of the Highways Alliance pending end of contract in 2019.</p>	<p>We have retained specialist support, and the contracts have been awarded and mobilisation has commenced and is progressing as planned. The current partners have continued to work with the council towards the end of the contract and there are no major issues identified</p>

Director of People Services

⁵ **Adults and Children's**

There were gaps at management levels including a number of temporary appointments that impacted on service continuity.

In August 2018, Angela Morris was appointed as the joint Director of Adults Social Care with RBWM. This was agreed for an initial period of nine months.

Carol Cammiss has been appointed as the Director of Children's Services and will take up her new role in November 2018.

The Assistant Director for People Commissioning has been in post since July 2018 and we are currently advertising for a permanent AD for both Children's Social Care and Education.

**C.21st Council Programme
Director**

⁶ Lack of leadership capacity at Customer and Localities AD level, due to acting up and interim arrangements to cover the Director role, have become more pressing as we move through service redesign, staff selection and recruitment and preparation for June 2018 go-live.

A permanent appointment was made in the summer. However, Josie Wragg was then successful in being appointed as Chief Executive at Slough Borough Council. Interim arrangements are in place and the post is being undertaken by Sarah Hollamby. Personnel Board is progressing a permanent appointment.

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