



Audit Committee	Wednesday, 19 April 2023	Matter for Information
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Report Title: **Progress on Actions Arising on Annual Governance Statement 2021/22**

Report Author(s): **Tracy Bingham (Strategic Director / Section 151 Officer)**

Purpose of Report:	To update the Audit Committee on the progress of improvement actions identified through the annual review of the Annual Governance Statement for 2022/23.
Report Summary:	<p>There were 11 actions identified through the annual assurance review as part of developing the 2022/23 Annual Governance Statement.</p> <p>There were then a further 17 improvements identified through an assessment of the Council's financial management arrangements against the CIPFA Financial Management Code, that all Local Authorities were required to adopt from April 2021.</p> <p>Of the total 28 actions, 16 are complete and the remainder are underway. A small number of the actions in progress have a revised implementation date.</p>
Recommendation(s):	That the content of the report be noted
Senior Leadership, Head of Service, Manager, Officer and Other Contact(s):	<p>Tracy Bingham (Strategic Director / Section 151 Officer) (0116) 257 2845 tracy.bingham@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</p> <p>Bev Bull (Head of Finance / Deputy Section 151 Officer) (0116) 257 2608 bev.bull@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</p> <p>Rashpal Sohal (Finance Manager) (0116) 257 2705 Rashpal.Sohal@Oadby-Wigston.gov.uk</p>
Strategic Objectives:	<p>Building, Protecting and Empowering Communities (CO1)</p> <p>Growing the Borough Economically (CO2)</p> <p>Providing Excellent Services (CO3)</p>
Vision and Values:	"A Stronger Borough Together" (Vision)
Report Implications:-	
Legal:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Financial:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Corporate Risk Management:	<p>Decreasing Financial Resources / Increasing Financial Pressures (CR1)</p> <p>Key Supplier / Partnership Failure (CR2)</p> <p>Political Dynamics (CR3)</p> <p>Reputation Damage (CR4)</p>

	Effective Utilisation of Assets / Buildings (CR5) Regulatory Governance (CR6) Failure to Respond to a Significant Incident (CR7) Organisational / Transformational Change (CR8) Economy / Regeneration (CR9) Increased Fraud (CR10) Cyber Threat / Security (CR11)
Equalities and Equalities Assessment (EA):	There are no implications arising from this report.
Human Rights:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Health and Safety:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Statutory Officers' Comments:-	
Head of Paid Service:	The report is satisfactory.
Chief Finance Officer:	As the author, the report is satisfactory.
Monitoring Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Consultees:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Leadership Team
Background Papers:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None.
Appendices:	Appendix 1 – Draft Annual Auditors Report 2020/21 and 2021/22.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Annual Governance Statement (AGS) is a requisite part of the annual review of corporate governance. Good practice dictates that the document is published alongside the statement of accounts but is considered in its own right.
- 1.2 The Council has a duty to undertake an annual review of its governance arrangements, which includes the effectiveness of its system of internal control and produce a statement regarding its overall level of governance in the form of an AGS.
- 1.3 The latest AGS is included within the council's published unaudited accounts for the 2021/22 year: https://www.oadby-wigston.gov.uk/files/documents/unaudited_financial_report_202122/OWBC%202122%20Financial%20Statements%2001-12-22.pdf
- 1.4 It includes details on the council's governance framework, links with the Internal Audit opinion for the year and sets out areas that require attention following the assessment. The assessment itself is also included and it determines a position for the Council against each of the CIPFA/SOLACE framework requirements of either:
- Good - Good governance exists and there are no improvements required
 - Fair - Satisfactory governance exists but improvements are required to meet good governance
 - Poor - Significant issues with governance exists which need addressing
- 1.5 In total, 28 improvement actions were identified in the AGS. Eleven of these were identified through the annual assurance review and a further 17 improvements identified

through an assessment of the Council's financial management arrangements against the CIPFA Financial Management Code, that all Local Authorities were required to adopt from April 2021.

2. Progress of actions

- 2.1 An update against each of the 28 actions is set out in the table at Appendix 1. Of them, 16 are complete and the remainder are underway. A small number of the actions in progress have a revised implementation date.