

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Agenda Item 64

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Annual Governance Statement Action Plan		
Date of Meeting:	16th December 2008		
Report of:	Director of Finance & Resources		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Ian Withers	Tel: 29-1323
	E-mail:	lan.withers@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 The City Council has a statutory duty under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 (amended 2006), to publish an Annual Governance Statement. For 2007/08 this was reviewed and approved by the Audit Committee in June 2008.
- 1.2 The actions for improvement to the council's governance framework are a key part of the Annual Governance Statement. The Audit Committee should receive regular progress reports, to satisfy itself that actions identified for improvement have been or are being implemented.
- 1.3 The purpose of this report is to update members on the progress that has been made in implementing actions arising from the Annual Governance Statement.

2. RECOMMENDATION:

That members note the progress made and are satisfied with the implementation of actions for improvement to the council's governance framework, identified in the Annual Governance Statement 2007/08.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Annual Governance Statement is a core element of the council's corporate governance arrangements. Ensuring that the actions identified for improvement have been implemented will further strengthen the council's corporate governance arrangements and contribute to the delivery of its objectives.
- 3.2 Section 10 of the Annual Governance Statement, details the actions identified for improvement to the council's governance framework. These include actions completed, in progress and those to commence. A total of 17 were identified as being in progress or to commence.

- 3.3 The action plan attached at Appendix A summarises the progress made against the 17 actions identified. The action plan details who is responsible for each individual action, what progress has been made (shown as a percentage) and target date of completion.
- 3.4 It is considered that good progress has been made during 2008/09 in implementing the action plan, in total 60% complete. The council is also considered to be target for completing 15 of the individual actions by the end of March 2009.
- 3.5 In addition to the action plan being received by the Audit Committee, it is also regularly received by the Officer's Governance Board.

4. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

4.1 Financial Implications:

The improvements to the council's governance arrangements as specified within the action plan are being implemented within existing financial resources

Finance Officer Consulted: Patrick Rice

Date: 9th December 2008

4.2 Legal Implications:

None directly relating to the Action Plan but the production of the statement meets the requirements of Regulation 4 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 (as amended by the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2006) .

Lawyer Consulted: Oliver Dixon

Date: 8th December 2008

4.3 Equalities Implications:

There are no direct equalities implications arising directly from this report

4.4 Sustainability Implications:

There are no direct sustainability implications arising from this report.

4.5 Crime & Disorder Implications:

There no direct implications for the prevention of crime and disorder arising from this report.

4.6 Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

The preparation of the Annual Governance Statement has been explicitly linked to the risk management framework of the City Council. It is important to ensure implementation of the actions for improvement, to mitigate risks.

4.7 Corporate / Citywide Implications:

Robust corporate governance arrangements are essential to the sound management of the City Council and the achievement of its objectives as set out in the Corporate Plan.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Annual Governance Statement 2007-08 Action Plan for Improvements to the City Council's Governance Framework

Background Documents

1. Annual Governance Statement 2007-08

