



Council name	COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL
Name and date of Committee	AUDIT COMMITTEE – 28 APRIL 2022
Report Number	AGENDA ITEM 9
Subject	ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT – ACTION PLAN
Wards affected	All
Accountable member	Cllr Joe Harris, Leader Email: joe.harris@cotswold.gov.uk
Accountable officer	Robert Weaver, Chief Executive Email: robert.weaver@cotswold.gov.uk
Summary/Purpose	This report presents an update on the Governance Action Plan for 2021/22
Annexes	Annex A Annual Governance Statement Action Plan 2021/22 including progress updates.
Recommendation(s)	<i>To note progress against items in the Governance Action Plan for 2021/22</i>
Corporate priorities	Not applicable
Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	The Corporate Action Plan has been shared with statutory officers, Executive Directors and Group Managers



1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Audit Committee is the Committee of the Council charged with governance.
- 1.2 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011 require the Council to produce an Annual Governance Statement (AGS), setting out the state of the Council's governance arrangements for the previous financial year.
- 1.3 The AGS for 2020/2021 was presented to this Committee on 22 July 2021 and is included within the approved Annual Statement of Accounts. The AGS identified eight areas for focussed improvement during 2021/2022.
- 1.4 The AGS areas of focus, identified for 2021/2022 are:
 - Audit recommendations
 - Procurement and contract management
 - Constitution and officer schemes of delegation
 - Operational risks
 - Responsibility and accountability of the Council's Senior Leadership Team and Publica Management Team
 - Budget management
 - Project and programme management
 - Health and safety
- 1.5 Progress reports covering these areas are made to this Committee on a quarterly basis so that it may monitor progress in improving the Council's governance arrangements.
- 1.6 An action plan for 2021/2022 covering the eight areas of focus is shown at Annex A.

2. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 These are set out in the report.

3. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 These are set out in the report.

4. RISK ASSESSMENT

- 4.1 If governance is weak the Council runs the risk of failing to safeguard the use of public money. In turn this would lead to poor external assessments, damaging the reputation of the Council. The areas of focus for the coming financial year identified in the Annual Governance Statement provide a clear set of priorities for the continual improvement of governance to mitigate risk.



5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

5.1 The following documents have been identified by the author of the report in accordance with section 100D.5(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 and are listed in accordance with section 100 D.1(a) for inspection by members of the public:

- Agenda Item 11 – Audit Committee 22nd July 2021

5.2 These documents will be available for inspection at the Council Offices at Trinity Road, Cirencester, GL7 1PX during normal office hours for a period of up to 4 years from the date of the meeting. Please contact democratic services via democratic@cotswold.gov.uk