

Subject	Annual Governance Statement Action Plan Progress Update	Status	For Publication
Report to	Audit & Governance Committee	Date	06 March 2025
Report of	Head of Governance and Corporate Services		
Equality Impact Assessment	Not Required	Attached	No
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1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide the Committee with an update on current progress against the Annual Governance Statement action plan as part of the assurance process in preparation of the 2024/25 Annual Governance Statement.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are recommended to:
- a. Note and welcome the progress being made; and**
 - b. Consider if any further information or explanation is required from officers.**

3 Link to Corporate Objectives

- 3.1 This report links to the delivery of the following corporate objective:

Effective and Transparent Governance

To uphold effective governance showing prudence and propriety at all times.

- 3.2 The contents of this report are part of the arrangements in place to ensure good governance.

4 Implications for the Corporate Risk Register

- 4.1 The actions outlined in the Annual Governance Statement address various identified risks and areas for improvement, some of which are directly referenced in the Corporate Risk register, while others are subsets of identified corporate risks.

5 Background and Options

- 5.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations (2015) (as amended) require the Authority to conduct a review of the effectiveness of its system of internal control and to produce an Annual Governance Statement (AGS) each year. The statement is considered and approved by the members of the Authority meeting as a whole. The statement is included in the Statement of Accounts and relied upon by the external auditor as part of the evidence base for their value for money conclusion.
- 5.2 The process for preparing the 2024/25 AGS is now underway and involves the Director and Head of Governance & Corporate Services reviewing assurance statements completed by each of the senior managers, Authority, Committee, and LPB effectiveness reviews, and the results of the internal audit programme of reviews for the year. The aim is for the draft AGS to be presented firstly to the Local Pension Board for their comments in April, prior to being taken to the Authority for their approval at the June meeting.
- 5.3 As part of this assurance gathering and review process, it is important to reflect and report on the progress made against the actions identified in the 2023/24 AGS action plan for improvements required.
- 5.4 A copy of the 2023/24 AGS Action Plan containing a progress and status update for each of the actions is attached at Appendix A. This shows that very good progress has been made over the course of the year to date. Five of the eight actions are already completed or will be completed by the end of March 2025. The three remaining actions, as outlined in the appendix, are all significantly progressed but have a status of 'partially completed' to reflect that work on these areas will continue into 2025/26.
- 5.5 Members are requested to review the progress made and make any comments or request any further explanation from officers as required.

6 Implications

- 6.1 The proposals outlined in this report have the following implications:

Financial	No direct implications.
Human Resources	No direct implications.
ICT	No direct implications.
Legal	No direct implications.
Procurement	No direct implications.

Jo Stone

Head of Governance & Corporate Services

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
None	