

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Corporate Audit Committee	
MEETING DATE:	1st February 2011	AGENDA ITEM NUMBER
TITLE:	Annual Governance Review - Update Report for 2009/10 & 2010/11	
WARD:	ALL	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		
Appendix 1 - Annual Governance Review Process		
Appendix 2 – Update on Actions from 2009/10 Significant Issues		

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 This report has been prepared to update the Corporate Audit Committee on the implementation of actions based on issues identified during the 2009/10 Annual Governance Review and progress on the 2010/11 review.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is asked to:

2.1 Note action taken to date in relation to the 'Significant Issues' recorded in the Annual Governance Statement 2009/10.

2.2 Note the process & timetable for the Annual Governance Review 2010/11.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no direct financial implications relevant to this report.

4 THE REPORT

4.1 Background

4.2 In 2006 the Accounts and Audit Regulations were updated and in 2007 CIPFA / SOLACE published revised guidance 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government'. This requires all Authority's to carry out an 'Annual Governance Review' and to publish an 'Annual Governance Statement' as part of the Council's Statutory Statement of Accounts. The process adopted by the Council for producing the statement is shown in **Appendix 1**.

4.3 The governance statement covers all significant corporate systems, processes and controls, spanning the whole range of a council's activities including in particular those designed to ensure the council is:

- implementing policies as it intends;
- delivering high-quality services, efficiently and effectively;
- meeting its values and ethical standards;
- complying with relevant laws and regulations;
- adhering to required processes e.g. risk management;
- publishing accurate and reliable financial statements and other performance information; and
- managing human, financial, environmental and other resources efficiently and effectively.

4.4 The Corporate Audit Committee is required to consider the Annual Governance Statement prior to final approval and monitor progress on the significant issues and actions identified in the previous years statement.

2009/10 Significant Issues Update

4.5 The Annual Governance Statement 2009/10 was considered by the Committee in May and June 2010 and the final statement included 4 'Significant' issues:-

- Economic Downturn & Financial Challenge to the Council
- Bath Transport Package
- Severe Weather
- Information Security

Appendix 2 provides an update on the Council's progress in implementing agreed actions.

Annual Governance Review Process & Timetable 2010/11

4.6 The Risk & Assurance Service will:-

- Manage the process, collating and analysing information from across the Council (Feb. to June'11).
- Consult Senior Officers / Members to identify issues to be recorded in AGS (Feb. to June '11).
- Report to Corporate Audit Committee / Cabinet (May & June'11).
- Obtain sign-off by Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council and make available for inclusion in the Council's Statutory Statement of Accounts (June '11).

5 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.
- 5.2 This report has been prepared to 'inform' the Committee in line with the Committee's adopted 'Terms of Reference'. Failure to report progress regarding the Annual Governance Statement would mean that the Committee is failing in its prescribed responsibility. This would also be identified through the Council's own governance review and the Audit Commission's Use of Resources assessment.

6 EQUALITIES

- 6.1 A proportionate equalities impact assessment has been carried out and there are no significant issues to report.

7 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 A copy of this report was distributed to the S151 Officer and Cabinet Member for Resources for comment.

Contact person	<i>Andy Cox (01225 477316) Jeff Wring (01225 477323)</i>
Background papers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Corporate Audit Committee Report, Annual Governance Review Update 4th May 2010▪ Corporate Audit Committee Report, Annual Governance Statement 29th June 2010
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	