

## Audit, Standards and Risk Committee

24 March 2022

### Governance Improvement Plan 2021/22 – Progress Update

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Is the paper exempt from the press and public?	No
Purpose of this report:	Monitoring/Assurance
Is this a Key Decision?	No
Has it been included on the Forward Plan?	Not a Key Decision

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#### **Executive Summary**

This paper updates the Committee on progress against the 2021/22 Governance Improvement Plan.

#### **What does this mean for businesses, people and places in South Yorkshire?**

Continually improving governance enables the Authority to pursue its ambitions and objectives in the most effective and efficient way, bringing about better outcomes for people and businesses in South Yorkshire.

#### **Recommendations**

Members are asked to note the final status of the 2021/22 Governance Improvement Plan and to endorse its closure.

**Consideration by any other Board, Committee, Assurance or Advisory Panel**  
Audit and Standards Committee  
27 January 2022

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 CIPFA guidance on the preparation of an Annual Governance Statement prescribes that the statement should include an 'agreed action plan showing actions taken, or proposed, to deal with significant governance issues' (Governance Improvement Plan). This paper provides an update on the progress of the Governance Improvement Plan for 2021/22 which forms part of the Annual Governance Statement for the previous financial year. The Governance Improvement Plan can be found at appendix A.

## **2. Key Issues**

- 2.1 The Governance Improvement Plan 2021/22 contains 23 actions, some with two aspects - a developmental stage and an implementation stage. As the financial year draws to a close there are some areas or actions that will transition into the new year and continue to embed, this includes the target operating models for financial management, procurement and programme management as well as collaborative working mechanisms and continual improvements to programme development.

There will also be some continuing work on developing reporting arrangements for monitoring corporate and business plans and ensuring corporate governance oversight.

- 2.2 Members are asked to note the final status of the plan and to endorse its closure.

## **3. Consultation on Proposal**

- 3.1 The Committee considered the proposed 2021/22 Governance Improvement Plan at their meeting 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021 and have reviewed progress at each meeting during the year.

## **4. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

- 4.1 The Governance Improvement Plan 2021/22 is relative up to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. A new plan is under development for 2022/23 and is referred to at item 15.

## **5. Financial and Procurement Implications and Advice**

- 5.1 There are no financial implications relating to the proposal set out regarding the development and monitoring of a governance improvement plan however, non-compliance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations may result in a qualified audit opinion which could lead to a potential withdrawal or withholding of funding.

## **6. Legal Implications and Advice**

- 6.1 There are no legal implications relating to this report.

## **7. Human Resources Implications and Advice**

- 7.1 There are no human resources implications related to this report.

## **8. Equality and Diversity Implications and Advice**

8.1 There are no equality and diversity implications related to this report.

## **9. Climate Change Implications and Advice**

9.1 There are no climate change implications related to this report.

## **10. Information and Communication Technology Implications and Advice**

10.1 There are no information and communication technology implications related to this report.

## **11. Communications and Marketing Implications and Advice**

11.1 There are no communications or marketing implications related to this report.

### **List of Appendices Included**

A Governance Improvement Plan – Progress Update

### **Background Papers**

Item 15 – Audit and Standards Committee agenda, 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021 – Draft AGS

<https://moderngov.sheffieldcityregion.org.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=142&MId=386&Ver=4>