

Audit, Standards and Risk Committee

Wednesday, 13 December 2023

Governance Improvement Plan 2023/24 – Progress Update

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

Director Approving Submission of the Report:

Gareth Sutton, Director of Resources & Investment/s73 Officer

Report Author(s):

Claire James, Head of Corporate Governance

Claire.James@southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk

Executive Summary

This paper updates the Committee on progress against the 2023/24 Governance Improvement Plan.

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

Continually improving governance enables the Combined 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

The Committee is asked to consider progress against the plan.

Consideration by any other Board, Committee, Assurance or Advisory Panel

The draft plan was considered as part of the draft Annual Governance Statement at the Committee meeting 22nd March 2023 and by the MCA Board on 5th June 2023.

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 activities, to deal with significant governance issues' (Governance Improvement Plan). This paper provides an update on the progress of the Governance Improvement Plan for 2023/24 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 Members are asked to note that in addition to monitoring progress against the Governance Improvement Plan, in line with the Internal Audit recommendation (reported to the Committee in October) a quarterly review of compliance with the Local Code of Corporate Governance has been established during the year.
- 2.2 The Committee is asked to consider progress against the plan, noting that five out of the 11 actions are now marked as complete (45%).

3. Consultation on Proposal

- 3.1 The Committee was originally consulted on the 2023/24 Governance Improvement Plan in March 2023.

4. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 4.1 The Governance Improvement Plan will be monitored during financial year 2023/24.

5. Financial and Procurement Implications and Advice

- 5.1 There are no financial implications relating to the proposal set out regarding the annual governance review 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 the Governance Improvement Plan.

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

None