

Annual Governance Statement – Action Plan

Review Significant Governance Issues 2013-14

	ISSUE	ACTION	TIMESCALE FOR COMPLETION	LATEST POSITION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER
1.	The Council's Code of Corporate Governance needs to be reviewed and updated. It also needs to reflect the existence and commitment to the revised Anti-Fraud and Bribery Strategy.	Cabinet approved the Anti-Fraud and Bribery Strategy in May 2014. The Code will be revised to incorporate this Policy.	June 2014	<p>The revised Code of Corporate Governance will be presented to Audit Committee in June along with the Annual Governance Statement.</p> <p><u>October 2014</u></p> <p>The Council's Code of Corporate Governance was reviewed and updated. This version was approved by Audit Committee 18 June 2014.</p> <p>Cabinet has approved the revised Anti-Money Laundering Policy on 16 July 2014.</p>	Corporate Director Resources

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	ISSUE	ACTION	TIMESCALE FOR COMPLETION	LATEST POSITION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER
2.	Estyn Report on the quality of local authority education services for children and young people.	The Post Inspection Action Plan is being examined on a monthly basis by the School Improvement Monitoring Group.	Autumn 2014 (next Estyn Monitoring Visit)	<p>The Action Plan will continue to be monitored and progressed in preparation for the next monitoring meeting.</p> <p><u>October 2014</u></p> <p>Estyn will be conducting a full inspection of Children's Services on 2,3 and 4 December 2014.</p> <p>The Council cannot remain in Estyn monitoring and there are two possible outcomes of inspection. One is that the Council is judged as good or excellent with capacity to improve as good or excellent and in that case we will move out of Estyn monitoring. Otherwise, with outcomes of inadequate or adequate, we will be placed in the category of requiring significant improvement and the Council's Intervention Team may take over the running of Children's services.</p> <p>In order to prepare thoroughly for Estyn, the senior leadership team need to spend the next few weeks preparing detailed reports, filing evidence into the 'virtual inspection</p>	Corporate Director Children

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				room', preparing case studies and preparing Head Teachers, Members and staff for interviews, to ensure that we are able to share the tremendous progress that has been made to date, and so that they can clearly articulate the journey that children's services are on and our vision for the future.	
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3.	<p>Delivering the £36m savings identified in the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2014/15 to 2017/18</p> <p>(the figure has increased since latest position October 2014)</p>	<p>The key assumptions and funding available was reviewed during 2013/14. A Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2014-15 to 2017-18 was approved by Council on 19 February 2014 which identified £36m savings needed over the period.</p>	<p>Budget Timescale and Local Government Settlement Timescale</p> <p>Updates to Corporate Management Board</p>	<p>Savings have been identified into :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Making Best Use of Resources ➤ Managed Service Reductions ➤ Collaboration & Service Transformation ➤ Policy Change <p>The risk status of the savings proposals were identified within the MTFS with 9.9% of the Savings Proposals classified as being Red with proposals still being developed and 19.6% as Amber with Implementation Plans in development.</p> <p>The Budget Research and Evaluation Panel will work on an on-going basis with Cabinet members and officers to develop the savings proposals.</p> <p><u>October 2014</u></p> <p>Following advice received from the then Minister for Local Government and Government Business, a report was submitted to Council in July 2014 identifying an updated savings requirement of £50 million for the 4 year period 2015-16 to 2018-19, based on a savings of - 4.5% per annum. This was reiterated in a further report to</p>	<p>Corporate Director - All</p>

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				<p>Cabinet in September 2014.</p> <p>The provisional settlement was received from the Welsh Government on 8 October, which showed a reduction for Bridgend of -3.4%. However, after taking account of additional funding transferred into the settlement for adult social care, the real reduction was -3.6%. Officers are currently working with Cabinet to firm up proposals for savings and budget pressures prior to publication of the draft MTFS report to Cabinet on 9 December 2014.</p>	
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4.	Council's arrangements for ensuring value for money from its working with the Third Sector (WAO Study June 2013)	The Third Sector Review Project Board has been established with a workstream dedicated to 'Value for Money and Alignment to Council priorities'.	Updates to Project Board Cabinet Report October 2013	<p>Action Plan includes:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Development of a Third Sector Strategy to build understanding about what the Council wants and needs and the potential future opportunities to help develop the market and build sustainability. ➤ That the Council should review each Service Level Agreement with Third Sector organisations, in discussion with the organisation, to ensure that performance management and reporting arrangements are proportionate to the funding provided. ➤ Where the Council provides significant funding to a particular organisation, it should identify a lead officer to manage the relationship with that organisation, with an overview of all the funding it receives, and to act as a contact where there are issues with provider performance. ➤ The Council should identify areas of its dealings with the Third Sector that could be more consistent such as commissioning and performance management, and seek to learn from colleagues, other councils, and the sector itself, about which approaches work well. The best approaches should then be applied across the Council. 	Corporate Director Resources

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	<p>Council's arrangements for ensuring value for money from its working with the Third Sector (WAO Study June 2013)</p>	<p>The Third Sector Review Project Board has been established with a workstream dedicated to 'Value for Money and Alignment to Council priorities'.</p>	<p>Updates to Project Board Cabinet Report October 2013</p>	<p><u>October 2014</u></p> <p>Directorates have undertaken a series of reviews of third sector organisations over the summer, to determine the extent to which the services they provide meet corporate priorities and are providing value for money. A meeting took place in September to provide an overview of the outcome of those reviews to the Third Sector Project Board. Budget savings of £150k for 2015-16 and 2016-17 are built into the MTFS. Following the Board meeting, an internal meeting will take place to review the detail of the reviews and make proposals on those areas where savings could be made. Following this a report will be presented to CMB for decision, probably in November.</p> <p>Risks / Issues</p> <p>There is the risk that following the reviews of third sector organisations, the proposed MTFS savings may not be achievable. A number of payments to the Third</p>	

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				<p>Sector are for services provided on behalf of the Council, rather than general grant funding. If the Council were to cease this payment, depending on the statutory nature of the provision, the Council may have to provide this service itself, and this could be at a higher cost.</p>	
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