

**STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**AGENDA**  
**ITEM NO**

**7 FEBRUARY 2017**

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| <b>Report Title</b>                               | <b>ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2015/16 IMPROVEMENT PLAN – PROGRESS REPORT</b>   |
| <b>Purpose of Report</b>                          | To provide assurance to the Committee that the improvement areas and associated actions identified as part of the annual review of governance arrangements operating within the Council, have been/are being addressed.   |
| <b>Decision(s)</b>                                | The Committee <b>RESOLVES</b> that it has reviewed and considered the actions taken to address the governance improvement areas identified.   |
| <b>Consultation and Feedback</b>                  | Corporate Team  |
| <b>Financial Implications and Risk Assessment</b> | There are no direct financial costs arising from this report.<br><br>David Stanley<br>Accountancy Manager<br>Tel: 01453 754100<br>Email: <a href="mailto:david.stanley@stroud.gov.uk">david.stanley@stroud.gov.uk</a><br><br><b>Risk Assessment:</b><br>Failure to deliver an effective corporate governance framework prevents the Council in directing and controlling its resources effectively and efficiently, to enable the Council's objectives to be met. |
| <b>Legal Implications</b>                         | There aren't any legal implications to highlight.<br><br>Karen Trickey, Legal Services Manager and Monitoring Officer<br>Tel: 01453 754369<br>Email: <a href="mailto:karen.trickey@stroud.gov.uk">karen.trickey@stroud.gov.uk</a>   |
| <b>Report Author</b>                              | Theresa Mortimer,<br>Head of Audit Risk Assurance<br>Tel: 01453 754111<br>Email: <a href="mailto:theresa.mortimer@stroud.gov.uk">theresa.mortimer@stroud.gov.uk</a>   |
| <b>Performance Management Follow Up</b>           | The Council's Annual Governance Statement 2016/17 is due to be presented to Audit and Standards Committee in June/July 2017, and will include a final progress report against the Annual Governance Statement 2015/16 Improvement Plan.   |

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| <b>Background Papers/<br/>Appendices</b> | <p><b>Appendix A:</b> Annual Governance Statement 2015/16 Improvement Plan – Progress Report</p> <p><b>Background papers:</b> Annual Governance Statement 2015/16</p> |
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## 1.0 Background

- 1.1 Governance comprises the systems and processes, and cultures and values, by which local government bodies are directed and controlled and through which they account to, engage with and, where appropriate, lead their communities.
- 1.2 The Council is required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 to publish an Annual Governance Statement, in accordance with '*proper practices*' in order to report publicly on the extent to which we comply with our own Local Code of Corporate Governance. This approach includes how the Council has monitored the effectiveness of arrangements in year and on any planned changes to governance arrangements in the coming year. Through the Council's Constitution, the Audit and Standards Committee has responsibility for review and approval of the Statement.
- 1.3 Members approved the Council Annual Governance Statement 2015/16 (including the Annual Governance Statement 2015/16 Improvement Plan) at the 5<sup>th</sup> July 2016 Audit and Standards Committee meeting.
- 1.4 This report is the first update presented to Members on the Council's progress (detailed in **Appendix A**) against agreed actions from the Annual Governance Statement 2015/16 Improvement Plan.