

Audit and Governance Committee

Date: 22nd January 2021

Agenda No:

Title of Report:	Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 Improvement Plan – Progress Report
Purpose of Report:	The purpose of this report is to provide assurance to the Audit and Governance Committee that the improvement areas and associated actions identified as part of the annual review of governance arrangements operating within GCC have been/are being addressed.
Recommendation:	It is recommended that the Audit and Governance Committee reviews and considers the actions taken to address the governance improvement areas identified.
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Key Risks	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 priorities and objectives to be met.
Background	<p>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.</p> <p>Through the Council’s Constitution, the Audit and Governance Committee has responsibility for review and approval of the Statement and to be provided with the assurance that any improvement actions identified are implemented.</p> <p>In line with prior year, ARA have prepared the Progress Report and collated action owner updates. Audit and Governance Committee have agreed that relevant executive / senior management action owners would be invited to attend committee on 22nd January 2021 to provide their updates on the actions taken to address the governance matters identified.</p>