

Senior Management Statement

As a Senior Management Team we have self-assessed directorate and corporate governance arrangements in place during 2016/17. The assessment was based on the governance maturity which we could evidence within each Directorate Management Team against a series of assurance statements. Each Director was responsible for completing a robust assessment of governance within their directorate and identifying and reporting significant governance issues. The Senior Management Team reviewed all returns in May 2017, from which the Chief Executive authorised the overall position.

We can report an overall assessment of 'strong' application of good governance across the assurance areas. This was based on a self-assessment using a 5-point rating system ranging from 'not in place', 'limited application', 'mixed application', 'strong application' to 'embedded'. The greatest maturity was identified in relation to performance management, upholding internal controls, compliance, the prevention and detection of fraud and monitoring and managing a challenging budget position.

The maturity assessment highlighted opportunities to enhance the discipline of partnership governance and long term business decision making for resource savings, for which there was a higher incidence of mixed application and evidence than other areas. The Senior Management Team recognises the need to prioritise actions for enhancement to enable strong evidence of application across all areas going forward. All Directorates are taking ownership of their assessments and the opportunity to focus on their individual areas for enhancement to governance maturity based on their respective assessments as we move into 2017/18.

The Senior Management Team collectively own the Corporate Risk Register and we have reviewed all corporate risks quarterly in 2016/17. We have also refreshed the risk escalation process at the financial year end to ensure we have systematic early identification and awareness of the most significant risks facing the organisation. A proportionate approach is taken to manage risks and allocate resources based on their assessed risk ratings.

The Senior Management Team collectively own an action plan of significant governance issues for which there has been steady progress in their management throughout 2016/17. In recognition of the progress made to address recommendations made in the WAO Corporate Assessment Follow On report 2016, this matter has been removed as a significant governance issue from the preceding year. The action plan is included in the annual governance statement 2016/17.