

8.1 - Appendix A

Senior Management Statement

1. As a Senior Management Team we have self-assessed directorate and corporate governance arrangements in place during 2018/19. The assessment was based on the governance maturity which we could evidence within each Directorate 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 2019, from which the Chief Executive authorised the overall position.
2. The Senior Management Assurance process and engagement within our Directorate Management Teams has led to a more transparent discussion around evidencing our assessments. We can report an overall assessment of approaching 'strong' application of good governance across the assurance areas with some examples of embedded and limited in some assurance areas in some directorates. This assessment 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 Senior Management focus is on ensuring that there is a wider consistency of strong across directorates and the Council which reflects the findings identified through the Senior Management Assurance process and operational reviews.
3. The maturity assessment highlighted opportunities to further enhance the disciplines of partnership and collaborative governance and compliance the detail of which is presented in the Annual Governance Statement Action Plan. The Senior Management Team recognises the need to prioritise actions for enhancement to enable strong evidence of application across all areas going forward.
4. In relation to the work of the Senior Management Team in 2018/19 we continued to collectively own the Corporate Risk Register, we reviewed all corporate risks quarterly, and monitored progress against the action plan of significant governance issues.
5. The Chief executive has emphasised the importance of achieving consistent standards of governance and control across all directorates, and has reinforced these expectations to be monitored and managed through the senior management assurance statement process as we enter 2019/20.