

# DECISION ITEM



REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
RESOURCES DIRECTORATE	AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE	16 MARCH 2017	6
<b>CORPORATE GOVERNANCE UPDATE</b>			

## PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

## SUMMARY

This report gives an update on the three governance statement actions arising from last year's governance statement. An Action Plan is also attached which reflects these issues

## RECOMMENDATION

1. To note the report and seek an update with respect to procurement information being incorporated into the contracts register at the June meeting of the committee.

## SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Presentation of the 2015/16 Annual Governance Statement in June 2016 to the Audit and Standards Committee

<b>CORPORATE PRIORITIES</b>	
Spending your money in the most efficient way to achieve excellent services ( <b>Value for Money</b> )	√
Delivering the services that customers expect of an excellent council ( <b>Clean and Green</b> )	√
Working with all partners ( <b>Vibrant Economy</b> )	√
To make sure Fylde continues to be one of the most desirable places to live ( <b>A Great Place to Live</b> )	√
Promoting Fylde as a great destination to visit ( <b>A Great Place to Visit</b> )	√

## REPORT

1. This report gives an update on the three governance statement actions arising from last year's governance statement.
2. The first action related to risk management. At the time the governance statement was written, risk management was undergoing a period of transition following the appointment of a new officer. This officer has now been with the council for several months and has made excellent progress with this area of work. An action was noted around partnership risk registers and whether there was still a requirement for these registers to be in place. The registers had been

introduced as a result of the former Audit Commissions' inspection requirement of local government, in line with compulsory comprehensive performance assessment, and a requirement relating to risk management. The Audit Commission had provided inspection guidance that partnership risk registers should be in place, for example, with key partners such as the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB). However, as the requirements of the Audit Commission and comprehensive performance assessments no longer exist, there was a question as to whether the requirement for such registers was still pertinent and this was articulated in last year's governance statement. The new Risk Management Officer has completed a benchmarking exercise with a cross-section of Lancashire authorities regarding this issue and has found that of those with whom the bench-marking was undertaken, none undertake joint partnership risk registers for external partnerships. In their place are contractual arrangements with key partners establishing the nature of the relationship between the Council and the organisation concerned. For example, in the case of the CAB there is a Service Level Agreement now in place. For this reason the review of the requirement for the need for these registers led to the conclusion that they are no longer a corporate requirement. As a result the revised Risk Management Strategy for the Council had removed the requirement for the creation of partnership risk registers.

3. A further action was around a relaunch of the corporate project management methodology. This has been successfully achieved throughout the year. Most notably it has been used in work around the self-sufficient council agenda with projects being put together using the project management methodology. Project management papers are attached for members' information.
4. With respect to the third matter, it was agreed that procurement information would be added to the contracts register. This work has forestalled a little due to a slight delay in recruiting an officer who will fulfil this role. However, an officer was successfully appointed at the end of January and it is anticipated that this work will be completed by the end of May and an update will be given to members on this matter at the June meeting of the committee.
5. The Action Plan below summarises the position with respect to these actions.

**Table 1**

Actions	Comment	Completion
Partnership Risk Registers	Following abolition of the comprehensive performance assessment and associated inspection requirements a benchmarking exercise has been undertaken with other authorities regarding continued requirement for shared partnership risk registers. It was concluded that these were no longer required as other methods in place to safeguard Council's relationship with external partners.	December 2016 – Status completed
Relaunch project management	This has been successfully achieved and already in use on the self-sufficient council-wide project.	December 2016 – Status completed
Procurement information added to online contracts register	Delayed due to recruitment of suitable officer. Officer now recruited. Target date reset.	End of December 2016 – target reset end of May 2017

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	The are no financial implications arising directly from this report
Legal	None arising directly from this report
Community Safety	None arising directly from this report
Human Rights and Equalities	None arising directly from this report
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None arising directly from this report
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None arising directly from this report

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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection

Attached documents

1. Project management papers