

AUDIT & ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE
2 FEBRUARY 2022

REVIEW OF SIGNIFICANT GOVERNANCE ISSUES IN THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update members of the Audit & Accounts Committee on the significant governance issues identified in the Annual Governance Statement.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Audit & Accounts Committee on 29 September 2021, Members approved the Annual Governance Statement for the Council, which forms part of the Council's Statement of Accounts. To ensure that Members are able to undertake their assurance role, this report updates the Committee on the status of the significant governance issues identified within it.
- 2.2 An extract from the Annual Governance Statement showing the issues identified is attached at Appendix A.

3.0 Results of the Review

- 3.1 The issues identified are considered separately below with details of any further work undertaken.
- 3.2 Development Company – The first development at Bowbridge Road is now underway with a number of properties developed a number of sales completed and more expected by the end of the financial year. The loan agreement has been agreed between the Council and the Company and is currently active. Due to this, there are no further governance issues outstanding, it is proposed to remove this from the significant governance issues within the next Annual Governance Statement for 2021/22.
- 3.3 Re-Integration of the Housing Management Function – The Council is in phase 2 of their tenant engagement review to ensure effective opportunities for tenants to influence and scrutinise existing services and hold landlords to account. Whilst this is being finalised the Housing Advisory Group continues to meet ahead of Homes and Communities Committee to provide a tenants view. As part of the governance review, a Tenant Engagement Board is proposed to ensure the tenants views are being sought.

The performance of the housing services remains strong via the Survey of Tenants and Residents completed in March 2021, which is being repeated in March 2022.

Proposals for allocation of the efficiencies generated from re-integrating the Housing Services have been discussed with tenants and are working through the committee cycle. Substantial work is being done to ensure the financial framework is in a place to deliver the 30 year business plan as well as reviewing our baseline stock and tenant data.

3.4 Yorke Drive Development – The project was paused to consider constraints identified at the site and changes in government and local policy. Funding of £1.05m has been secured to enable the project to progress with early demolition of some homes and some infrastructure works with a programme of activity up to the end of 2022. Officers continue to work through issues and provide updates to relevant committees.

4.0 Financial Implications FIN(21-22/6029)

4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

5.1 That the Committee notes the results of the review of significant governance issues as identified in the Annual Governance Statement.

Background Papers

Annual Governance Statement for 2020/21

For further information please contact Nick Wilson, Business Manager– Financial Services on Ext: 5317

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