

Annual Governance Statement 2010-11 Action plan: Status Report

The following is a summary of the status of the agreed actions that were identified to address the significant governance issues were identified and recorded on the Council's Annual Governance Statement 2010-11:

Extract from the 2010-11 AGS – 'Significant Governance Issues'				Update		
	Issue	Action	Target Date	Status	Responsible Officer	Comments
1.	Guidance in respect of the governance of partnerships, including how it relates to shared services, to be reviewed and updated to reflect changing circumstances.	The Partnership Code and Toolkit, adopted as part of the Council's Constitution in 2009, is to be reviewed to ensure that it is aligned with the revised approach to partnerships as reflected in the new Southampton Connect collaborative model . Formal shared service arrangements with other authorities or organisations are generally governed via contracts or Service Level Agreements. As these expand a review may be required to consider whether a revision to the Constitution and guidance is required.	May 2012 (in expectation that it will require a change to the Constitution and would need to be presented at the Council's Annual General Meeting).	Completed	Director of Economic Development / Director of Corporate Services	A revised Partnership Code has been developed and adopted as part of the Council's Constitution. The Code is intended to ensure that sound governance arrangements are in place and forms an important element of the Council's overall framework for partner and partnership engagement. It will continue to be reviewed as partnership working arrangements develop and evolve.
2.	Ensure consistent understanding of the council's corporate standards by relevant officers.	A review of corporate standards is to be undertaken to ensure that the arrangements currently in place are appropriate, robust and fit for purpose. This will then shape and inform the associated training and development activities which are targeted to commence from October 2011 onwards.	March 2012	Completed	Director of Corporate Services	Corporate Standards are reviewed when changes to legislation, case law or the Constitution require. Developing the Council's (Officers and Members) understanding and compliance with standards is a core function of the Corporate Services Directorate and is delivered throughout it's day to day activities via corporate legal, finance and policy teams using 1-1 or team / divisional advice and guidance as appropriate. This approach has a more positive and resource appropriate impact than structured training events and has been found to deliver better understanding and compliance than formalised annual training.

Extract from the 2010-11 AGS – ‘Significant Governance Issues’				Update		
	Issue	Action	Target Date	Status	Responsible Officer	Comments
3.	Governance arrangements in respect of the management of health and safety will not enable the provision of an appropriate level of assurance to officers and members that the health and safety compliance regime is robust.	Governance arrangements for health and safety accountabilities to be through a Health and Safety Management Board comprising the Chief Executive and Directors. This Board is to meet on a quarterly basis.	March 2012	Completed	Director of Corporate Services	A Health and Safety Board and Steering Group has now been established. The former comprises the Chief Executive, the Leader of the Council and Directors and meets on a quarterly basis. The Steering Group comprises the Director of Corporate Services, Head of Property & Procurement, Health & Safety Coordinators and Senior Managers. It is charged with reviewing proposals, monitoring progress and supporting the Head of Property and Procurement in implementing policies within their Directorates.
4.	Changes being made to directorate and management structures in order to develop and improve the organization and ensure that effective services are delivered to its customers	The changes to directorate and management structures are intended to focus on delivering high quality, low cost services that meet customer needs and will be reflected in the employment (job description), constitutional and governance framework to ensure clarity of roles and responsibilities.	March 2012	Completed	Chief Executive / Director of Corporate Services	<p>In April 2011 a new structure was implemented with a 50% reduction in the number of Directorates and Director roles.</p> <p>In July 2011, the second phase of the organisational restructure began involving the rationalisation of management posts. This established new directorate management teams and, as a consequence, this created a need to realign responsibilities across senior management and directorate support posts. This phase of the restructure commenced in October 2011. All key restructure exercises are intended to be completed September 2012.</p> <p>In relation to Adult Health and Social Care and Children's Services and Learning, the intention is not to merge the two Director roles prior to March 2013. In this period the two Directors will continue to develop closer working between the two directorates including merged support where appropriate in order to maximise efficiencies / improve service support and provision.</p>