

Key Issues

This Statement is intended to provide reasonable assurance. It is stressed that no system of control can provide absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss. In concluding this overview of the Council's governance arrangements, 6 issues have been identified that need to be addressed to ensure continuous improvement in the Governance Framework. The aim is to address these weaknesses during the 2018-19 financial year, by way of an action plan for improving the governance framework and system of internal control. This will be subject to monitoring by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Status	Control Issue	Action Proposed	Responsibility	Target Date	Current Position
<b>Brought Forward and amended</b>	On-going and future changes to the Council's financial framework including several changes to national and local funding regimes will increase the financial pressure on the Council and risk profile. These changes arise from continued downward pressure on government funding of Councils as confirmed in the indicative long term financial settlement	<p>The agreed Medium Term Financial Strategy of the Council reflects the expected need to make future savings over the medium term taking into account anticipated changes in financing. This informs the budget process for future years.</p> <p>The s151 Officer considers the risk as part of the closure of accounts including the need to make appropriate</p>	Chief Finance Officer (s151)	Ongoing, but with review of financial monitoring by October 2018. Quarterly reporting thereafter	<p>Work has been undertaken during the current year to ensure members were fully informed of, and involved in, shaping the budget strategy ahead of key meetings in February 2019.</p> <p>Financial monitoring has been reviewed and new reporting arrangements have been put in place from October 2018.</p>

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Status	Control Issue	Action Proposed	Responsibility	Target Date	Current Position
	Ensure that officers and members receive adequate and robust financial information on which to base budget decisions	provisions and reserves at the year-end.  Review budget monitoring processes and information flows and reporting arrangements			
<b>Brought forward</b>	The Corporate Peer Challenge findings recommended a review of Governance arrangements	The areas highlighted were: Political Leadership Succession planning, Member development, involvement of members in priority setting	Members and Officers	Ongoing	The Corporate Peer Challenge findings recommended a review of Governance arrangements. Other governance issues addressed through work with Veritau and health checks (e.g. democratic services)
<b>Brought forward</b>	The results of the recent Staff Survey indicated the bullying of employees within Ryedale District Council.	Overview & Scrutiny Committee is conducting a full investigation into the indication of bullying of employees. Officers will comply with all requests for information that the Committee makes in relation to the investigation. A budget of £10,000 (funded from general	Members	Ongoing	Members have received a report on this. HR Project Officer has been appointed (starting August 2019) to roll out zero tolerance programme, carry out policy review and proactive communications. Historical and current matters continue to be investigated as

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		reserves) was agreed to facilitate this.			per O&S meeting in March 2019
<b>2018-19</b>	Ensure that arrangements regarding shared services, such as HR, payroll and financial support are in place to support the Council.	Monitoring of performance by Leadership Team	Leadership Team, but to note that Scrutiny will also review this area.	Quarterly reporting	Agreements with organisations such as NYCC, SBC and others are being updated and collated. Specific payroll issue is now monitored through Risk Register
<b>Amended</b>	The audit opinion of the control environment for the management of risk is “provides limited assurance”. This has been updated from “weak” in the previous year, but a number of issues remain which will ensure this remains a priority.	An action plan has been agreed including sharing risk register with OSC, regularly reviewing risks, looking at online training	S151 officer and service leads	October 2018	Action plan now agreed and this is being implemented. Training provided to members in December and a workshop held with managers to identify risk and mitigating actions