



REPORT TO: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE: 29 JANUARY 2015

REPORT OF THE: FINANCE MANAGER (s151)
PETER JOHNSON

TITLE OF REPORT: ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT ACTION PLAN

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The report informs Members of the progress made to address the actions identified in the 2013-14 Annual Governance Statement (AGS) action plan.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that Members note the progress made to address identified actions in the 2013-14 AGS action plan.

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

3.1 Monitoring progress with identified actions in the AGS is good practice and it helps to demonstrate to the external auditors that the audit committee is properly exercising its role.

4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS

4.1 There are no significant risks.

5.0 POLICY CONTEXT AND CONSULTATION

5.1 There is no impact upon specific policies, although the AGS is an important corporate document demonstrating the Council's commitment to an open and transparent philosophy in all its activities.

6.0 REPORT DETAILS

6.1 Good governance is important to all involved in local government; however, it is a key responsibility of the Leader of the Council and of the Chief Executive.

- 6.2 The preparation and publication of an Annual Governance Statement in accordance with the Cipfa/SOLACE Framework is necessary to meet the statutory requirements set out in Regulation 4(2) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011 which require each authority to “conduct a review at least once in a year of the effectiveness of its system of internal control” and to prepare a statement on internal control “in accordance with proper practices”.
- 6.3 To meet the requirement to review the AGS an Action Plan has been agreed and is subject to review by the Council’s Audit Committee.
- 6.4 This report presents a review of the implementation of actions proposed in the Action Plan associated with the 2013-14 AGS.
- 6.5 The Action Plan detailed in Appendix A, sets out the current position with comments on the actions proposed in the plan.
- 6.6 The AGS Action Plan is a document that should be reviewed periodically during the year. A final review will be completed when the AGS for 2014-15 is being drafted and any current items which remain outstanding will then be brought forward into the new AGS.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The following implications have been identified:
- a) Financial
None
 - b) Legal
None
 - c) Other (Equalities, Staffing, Planning, Health & Safety, Environmental, Crime & Disorder)
None

Peter Johnson
Finance Manager (s151)

Author: Peter Johnson, Finance Manager (s151)
Telephone No: 01653 600666 ext 385
E-Mail Address: peter.johnson@ryedale.gov.uk

Background Papers:
None

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2013/14

Action Plan for Implementation in 2014/15

STATUS	CONTROL ISSUE	ACTION PROPOSED	RESPONSIBILITY	TARGET DATE	CURRENT POSITION & COMMENTS
Brought Forward	Risk of compromise and weaknesses in operational systems as a consequence of continuing reductions in staffing as Government funding cuts made.	Where changes in staffing occur, that changes in operating arrangements are reviewed prior to reducing the controls. Internal audit will be included in working groups reviewing operating systems and arrangements, including commissioning, partnership arrangements etc. Also see <i>delegated authority limits</i> below.	Finance Manager (s151 Officer)	Continuing	This will be a continuing issue in 2015/2016 and beyond. Internal Audit advice given on cheque handling procedures in the current financial year.
Brought Forward	Procurement Risk as the Council undertakes a significant OJEU procurement for Leisure Management.	The Authority is part of the North Yorkshire Procurement Partnership and will ensure advice is taken supplemented by service specific advice for both procurements.	Corporate Director, Head of Environmental Services	September 2014	Leisure contract awarded to SLM, trading as Everyone Active..

2013/14	In year Internal Audits offering limited assurance.	Management to specifically monitor the progress on agreed actions from these Internal Audit Reports.	Heads of Service and Finance Manager.	In line with the dates for completion for agreed actions from the audit reports	Bi-monthly monitoring through Management Team ongoing. No significant issues to report at this time.
2013/14	Delegated authority limits	As a result of the change in s151 officer, the authority will review the current scheme of delegation, starting with the constitution through to individual authorisation levels.	Head of Corporate Services, Finance Manager (s151 Officer)	December 2014	Process completed.