

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (2013/14) – EMERGING ISSUES SUMMARY

	Issue	Person Responsible/ Status (RAG code)	Comments/Update	C/Fwd into 2014/15(✓)
1	Careful consideration of the impact of the spending review and subsequent funding decisions by central Government and the impact this will have on the Council's finances into the future	DG	Significant cuts in funding have already been received with more to follow. The ongoing impact of the localisation of business rates is being monitored and an increase in the working balance was made based on a risk assessment. The MTFS indicates the council can accommodate these reductions without making cuts in service provision however the ability to reduce the council's reliance on NHB as a revenue stream is affected. The proposed cuts in LCC partnership funding will impact on the forward projection and is a risk to this position. The position will continue to be monitored and reported to members and reflected in the MTFS and budget estimates as these are developed.	✓
2	With reference to benefits whilst the control environment has improved from that originally reported in 2009/10 there is still scope for improvement and continued focus needs to be given to the internal audit recommendations. A review of the benefits service has been undertaken applying lean principles to improve service quality and efficiency. Consideration needs to be given to the control environment generally in these areas in order to ensure all services covered are robust in terms of the control environment. The impact of the Welfare Bill Universal Credit will need carefully planning and monitoring	HR	The People Manager is closely working with the Benefits team leader and progressing actions from the audit reports with regard to the impact of the Welfare Bill Universal Credit, the People Manager has been given a clear scope to lead on this work, to understand the impact and develop solutions, acting as the programme manager	

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3	The IT Service has been delegated to HBBC from 1 May 2013 the impact this has on the quality of service delivery and the ability of the service to better meet business needs is a key issue for the overall performance of the Council	DG	Performance reports are received monthly and meetings held with the client and contractor to discuss any issues. The service is generally performing well.	
4	The move of JCP into the building is currently on schedule for 30 th September. A project plan is in place to ensure that this goes smoothly and that any knock on effects, such as the movement of the CAB, are dealt with in an appropriate way. Information sharing protocols will be reviewed as part of this project but the aims will continue to be to ensure that clients benefit from joined up and holistic approaches to delivering services from all of the partners who use Parkside	KA	The groups established through the governance structure are being formed and representatives allocated. Budgets are being monitored through established budget monitoring processes	
5	Following the HRA reforms taking the Council out of the subsidy system new control arrangements will need to be fully bedded in	HR	The HRA is a key budget area and therefore monitored monthly, in addition a new resource has been secured within the team to closely manage the business and investment plans to ensure expenditure and investment need are aligned to the business plan.	
6	Local Plan The Groups will focus on a wide range of issues including Housing matters through 2014, which will assist the MLWG to recommend to Full Council stages of the MLP.	LA/HR/JW	The process to prepare the Melton Local Plan (MLP) commenced in September 2013 with a Conference of all interested parties, setting out the Council's approach. The reference Groups now number 6 have been established covering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents • Employment & Town Centre 	✓

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Interest • Landowners and Developers • Environment • Young People <p>encompassing up to 200 people.</p> <p>These Groups have considered the development of a Vision for the Plan and advised the MLP Working Group (MLPWG) . the resultant Vision has now been adopted by Full council (18th April 2014)</p> <p>The Reference Groups have commenced looking at Housing Need. The Strategic Housing Area Assessment (SHMAA) is being prepared and as numbers from this technical work are public, work will be done with the Groups to explain and a develop thoughts and approach.</p> <p>A full timetable of this work for 2014 is agreed.</p>	