

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (15/16) – EMERGING ISSUES SUMMARY

	Issue	Person Responsible/ Status (RAG code)	Comments/Update	Carried forward to 16/17
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 both from central government but also from partners notably the LCC, with more to follow. RSG is reducing significantly over the period to 2019/20 then is phased out completely with the business rates retained then reduced to allow the on-going central government cuts to continue. A review is on-going regarding a move to 100% local retention of business rates. This will ensure new burdens and a redistribution mechanism. The bottom line impact on the council is not known. The key impact on the council will be the reduction in NHB which whilst the actual level is not known and has been consulted on, it will be significant. With the approval of the cattle market and leisure vision projects capital receipts are now estimated to be almost fully utilised. The council needs to identify future potential revenue savings as well as potential asset sales to mitigate 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. An efficiency plan is being developed to identify how the anticipated funding gap can be addressed.	✓

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2	<p>Waste Management Services</p> <p>This is a key area of focus prior to the new contract</p>	<p>JW</p> <p>Amber</p>	<p>This is a complex area with many different possible approaches to the replacement of the contract being investigated. The existing contract has been extended for 18 months which as well as allowing more time for these options to be pursued has also secured savings in excess of £100,000.</p> <p>Alongside the procurement of the new contract, there are significant changes being pursued by the Waste Disposal Authority (LCC) which impact on the finances of the services and will have a very significant bearing on service delivery options for the future. These are at consultation stage at present but will take effect in 2018/19, which coincides with the contract length of terms (with extension).</p>	✓
3	<p>Leisure Vision Project</p> <p>This a new project involving a large acquisition and complex finance and legal matters.</p>	HR	<p>This is a complex project that a detailed business case has been prepared and being presented to Full Council 22 Feb. the issues to be considered are when the bids come in for each option and external funding progress. Financing the project will be key in this and could impact the Council through PB.</p>	✓
4	<p>Debt Generation and collection</p> <p>Scrutiny required and area of focus planned.</p>	HR	<p>A report to MT in October showed that since the Sundry debt recovery assistant started in October 2014 funded using the new Welfare burdens money & a contribution from the HRA, over £294k of aged debts have been received. Debts over 240 days have</p>	✓

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			reduced by £80k. An issue relating to generating reminders has arisen and between Oracle, Steria and It this is being progressed, a 'fix' has been sent to see if this will remedy the situation and this is being tested w/c 22/02/06.	
	Delivery of transformation, difficult interplay of channel and behaviour shift and various projects/IT resource needs/culture. Newly designed systems eg. Integrated Housing Management system based on insight and increasing approach to collaborative working in partnership.	KA	<p>2015/16 transformation savings target achieved. Difficulties encountered in gaining the level of understanding required for project managers to set targets for their areas of activity. This is important with the more challenging 2016/17 target.</p> <p>The review of Customer Services and delivery of services including changes to face to face contact and childrens centres has been approved by PFA and CSA. The savings required from this process therefore should be achieved. The restructure is currently being implemented in consultation with the recognised trade unions.</p> <p>The recent ME2E self-assessment highlights this as an area of focus, around culture, capacity and capability. The Improvement plan has identified actions to address this during 2016/17. The prioritisation of the work areas for 2016/17 and appropriate and deliverable resource planning will improve the prospects of delivering against this agenda. The recent ME2E self-assessment highlights this as an area of focus, around culture, capacity and capability. The Improvement plan</p>	✓

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