

South Ayrshire Council

**Report by Head of Regulatory Services
to Audit and Governance Panel
of 29 May 2019**

Subject: Delivering Good Governance – 2018/19 Assessment

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to invite Members to review the 2018/19 year end assessment against the Council's Delivering Good Governance Framework.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the Panel reviews and agrees the 2018/19 year end assessment as set out in [Appendix 1](#) to this report.**

3. Background

- 3.1 Since the 2017/18 year end assessment was considered by this Panel on 30 May 2018 work has progressed to address the associated improvement actions. Alongside this the Framework itself has been updated in line with CIPFA recommendations, the updated arrangements being approved by the Leadership Panel on 12 February 2019.
- 3.2 This report provides updates on those improvement actions set within the context of the principles of the new Framework – see [Appendix 2](#); provides a year end assessment on the effectiveness of the updated Framework – see Appendix 1; and identifies a prioritised set of improvement actions to further strengthen the Council's governance arrangements – see [Appendix 3](#).




4. Proposals

- 4.1 Appendix 2 details progress against the improvement actions agreed for 2018-19. It shows that :
- 14 are complete,;
 - 1 is progressing on target (some timescales having previously been extended beyond the year-end);
 - 3 have not progressed as planned (timescales have slipped for implementing the new platform and functionality for the Council's website, and, similarly for the Council's new Communications Strategy and the Community Engagement Strategy, the latter will now be presented to Leadership Panel in June 2019); and

- 1 was overtaken by events (a survey of Members over governance arrangements, when consultation was required with them over the proposed updated Framework).

4.2 Where slippage has occurred which is material to the effectiveness of the new governance arrangements, then this has been factored into year-end assessment presented at Appendix 1. Similarly, if any of the continuing or outstanding actions are regarded as being significant in the context of the new framework, then these have been included within the improvement plan for 2019-20 in Appendix 3.

4.3 Appendix 1 reflects any developments to the Framework that occurred between its approval in February and the year-end sign off as at 31 March 2019. It also includes an assessment of the effectiveness for each of the 21 sub-principles by the lead officers identified for the aspects that they have responsibility for/ knowledge of, on the following three point scale:

	Effective		Effective but scope for improvement		Requiring improvement
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Delivering Good Governance 2018-19 Year End Assessment - Summary	
Behaving with integrity	
Demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values	
Respecting the rule of law	
Openness	
Engaging comprehensively with institutional stakeholders	
Engaging with individual citizens and service users effectively	
Defining outcomes	
Sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits	
Determining actions	
Planning actions	
Optimising achievement of intended outcomes	
Developing the Council's capacity	
Developing the capability of the Council's leadership	
Managing risk	
Managing performance	
Robust internal control	
Managing data	
Strong public financial management	
Implementing good practice in transparency	
Implementing good practices in reporting	
Assurance and effective accountability	

4.4 Based on this assessment the lead officers were then asked to identify any specific actions they felt would be desirable to improve the current arrangements and any actions they felt were essential to improve the current arrangements. The resultant actions were then reviewed and prioritised by the Corporate Leadership Team at their meeting on Thursday 2 May 2019, to produce a rationalised and proportionate set of improvement actions for 2019-20, as set out in Appendix 3.

4.5 An updated summary version of the framework will be put on the [Council's website](#), with hyperlinks to allow Members, officers and the public to access all of the supporting detail of the Council's current governance arrangements.

5. Legal and Procurement Implications

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

5.2 There are no procurement implications arising from this report.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 Not applicable.

7. Human Resources Implications

7.1 Not applicable.

8. Risk

8.1 Risk Implications of Adopting the Recommendations

8.1.1 There are no risks associated with adopting the recommendations.

8.2 Risk Implications of Rejecting the Recommendations

8.2.1 Rejecting the recommendations may impact on the reputation of the Council.

9. Equalities

9.1 The proposals in this report allow scrutiny of performance. The report does not involve proposals for policies, strategies, procedures, processes, financial decisions and activities (including service delivery), both new and at review, that affect the Council's communities and employees, therefore an equality impact assessment is not required.

10. Sustainable Development Implications

10.1 ***Considering Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)*** This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme or strategy or document otherwise described which could be considered to constitute a plan, programme, policy or strategy.

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11. Options Appraisal

11.1 An options appraisal has not been carried out in relation to the subject matter of this report.

12. Link to Council Plan

12.1 The matters referred to in this report contribute to delivery of the Council's strategic objective 'Effective Leadership that Promotes Fairness' and the commitment that 'Councillors will provide effective governance and leadership'.

13. Results of Consultation

13.1 There has been no public consultation on the contents of this report.

13.2 Consultation has taken place with Councillor Douglas Campbell, Portfolio Holder for Corporate, and the contents of this report reflect any feedback provided.

Background Papers **Report to Audit and Governance Panel of 30 May 2018 – [Delivering Good Governance – 2017/18 Assessment](#)**

Report to Leadership Panel of 12 February 2019 – [Updated Delivering Good Governance Framework](#)

Person to Contact **Catriona Caves, Head of Regulatory Services**
County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr, KA7 1DR
Phone 01292 612556
E-mail catriona.caves@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

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