

South Ayrshire Council

Report by Head of Legal, HR and Regulatory Services
to Audit and Governance Panel
of 2 June 2021

Subject: Delivering Good Governance – 2020/21 Assessment

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to invite Members to review the 2020/21 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 2020/21 year-end assessment as set out in [Appendix 1](#) to this report.**

3. Background

3.1 Since the 2019/20 year end assessment was reviewed and agreed by Audit and Governance Panel Members in June 2020, work has progressed to address the associated improvement actions. During 2020/21, these arrangements were impacted by the Covid-19 Pandemic. This resulted in the requirement for revised measures to be put in place to address the delivery of good governance in certain areas to ensure that governance standards continued to be met. Illustrations of these revisions are reflected in the Appendix 1 year end assessment.



4. Proposals

4.1 This report provides updates on the current year's (2020/21) improvement actions set within the context of the principles of the Framework in line with CIPFA recommendations – 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 for 2021/22, highlighted in red and drawn from Appendix 1, to further strengthen the Council's governance arrangements – see Appendix 3.

4.2 [Appendix 2](#) details progress against the improvement actions agreed for 2020-21. It shows that:

- 4 are complete;
- 4 are progressing on target (some timescales having previously been extended beyond the year-end); and
- 1 hasn't progressed as planned (timescales have slipped on the completion of governance arrangement with East Ayrshire Council relating to the Ayrshire Roads Alliance, due to Covid-19 priorities).

- 4.3 Where slippage has occurred which is material to the effectiveness of the 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 framework, then these have been included within the Improvement Plan for 2021-22 in [Appendix 3](#).
- 4.4 Appendix 1 reflects any developments to the Framework that occurred between April 2020 and the year-end sign off as at 31 March 2021. 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 2020-21 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	

4.5 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, to produce a rationalised and proportionate set of Improvement Actions for 2021-22, as set out in Appendix 3.

4.6 A summary version of the framework is available 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 Commitment 1 of the Council Plan: Fair and Effective Leadership/ Leadership that promotes fairness.

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 Peter Henderson, Portfolio Holder for Corporate and the contents of this report reflect any feedback provided.

Background Papers **Report to Audit and Governance Panel Members – June 2020 - [Delivering Good Governance – 2019/20 Assessment](#)**

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