

**CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 24 NOVEMBER 2014****REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES****ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (AGS) 2014 – UPDATE  
AGAINST KEY IMPROVEMENT AREAS****Purpose of Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide a mid-year update to the Committee on those areas identified for improvement included within the County Council's 2013/14 approved Annual Governance Statement (AGS).

**Key Improvement Areas 2013/14**

2. At its meeting on 12 May 2014 the Committee approved the draft 2013/14 AGS. A minor change to reflect an additional key area for improvement to meet the requirements of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards was added at the 24 September Committee meeting. A copy of the final signed statement accompanied the Annual Statement of Accounts which is published on the County Council's website.
3. The County Council's review of effectiveness concluded that overall financial management and corporate governance arrangements were sound. To ensure that this continues to be the case at the County Council during the assurance gathering process development areas were also identified.
4. Section 6 of the 2013/14 AGS includes a table setting out the key areas identified as requiring improvement during the review period 2013/14. The Appendix to this report provides a mid-year progress update on these areas. In summary, there has been progress in every area identified. A number of areas form part of the Authority's Transformation Programme or have links to it and therefore many improvement actions are ongoing.
5. Implementing actions to address identified issues will ensure that gaps identified within the County Council's current control environment will be closed and strengthened and further enhance the Council's overall governance arrangements.

**Recommendations**

6. The Committee is requested to note this report and progress detailed in the Appendix.

**Resource Implications**

7. None arising from this report.

**Equality and Human Rights Implications**

8. None arising from this report.

**Background Papers**

Report to the Corporate Governance Committee 12 May 2014 – ‘Annual Governance Statement 2013/14’

**Circulation Under the Local Issues Alert Procedure**

None.

**Officers to Contact**

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**Appendix**

Key Improvement areas 2014/15