

South Ayrshire Council

**Report by Depute Chief Executive and Director – People
to Audit and Governance Panel
of 30 May 2018**

Subject: Delivering Good Governance – 2017/18 Assessment

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to invite Members to review the 2017/18 year end assessment against the Council's Delivering Good Governance Framework.

2. Recommendation**2.1 It is recommended that the Panel:**

- 2.1.1 reviews and agrees the 2017/18 year end assessment as set out in [Appendix 1](#) to this report; and**
- 2.1.2 requests that the Head of Regulatory Services drafts an updated Framework for consideration by this Panel on 29 August 2018.**

3. Background

- 3.1 Since the [2016/17 year end assessment](#) was considered by this Panel on 18 April 2017, work has progressing to maintain, improve and refine the Council's governance arrangements through a number of channels. This has included commitments incorporated within our Service and Improvement Plans, work overseen by the Best Value Working Group and more detailed work on specific aspects that were felt to require / offer opportunities for improvement.

4. Proposals

- 4.1 The outcomes of these areas of work, as concluded by 31 March 2018, are reflected in the updated year end assessment against the Council's Delivering Good Governance Framework, as set out at Appendix 1. This sets out for each of the 18 aspects of the Framework:

- What we said last year in terms of the 'self-evaluation question'; 'what do we need'; and 'what we had in place at 31 March 2018'.
- What our auditors have said in relation to these issues, drawing on the [Annual Report to Members on the 2016/17 Audit](#).
- What has been identified in relation to these issues in the [updated Strategic Risk Register](#).
- The progress reported by officers against related improvement actions, from [last year's assessment](#) and as reflected in our [Service and Improvement Plans](#).

- An updated picture of ‘what we had in place at 31 March 2018’.
- Reflecting all of this, an assessment of how officers view the adequacy of these arrangements, summarised through our Red / Amber / Green status symbols.
- A summary of planned improvement activity for 2018/19.

4.2 The overall assessment from this exercise, as at 31 March 2018, is shown below:

Aspect:	Lead Officer:	2016/17	2017/18
1.1 Planning	Mark Baker		
1.2 Performance	Mark Baker		
1.3 Review	Mark Baker		
2.1 Structures	Kate O'Hagan & Head of Regulatory Services		
2.2 Delegation	Head of Regulatory Services		
2.3 Research	Mark Baker		
3.1 Values	Kate O'Hagan & Head of Regulatory Services		
3.2 Behaviour	Kate O'Hagan & Head of Regulatory Services		
4.1 Reporting of decisions	Head of Regulatory Services & Mark Baker		
4.2 Quality of information	Head of Regulatory Services		
4.3 Risk Management	Head of Regulatory Services		
5.1 Competencies	Kate O'Hagan		
5.2 Training	Kate O'Hagan		
5.3 Development	Claire Monaghan & Kate O'Hagan		
6.1 Public Performance Reporting	Mark Baker		
6.2 Consultation Strategy	Claire Monaghan		
6.3 Internal Communications	Mark Baker & Kate O'Hagan		
6.4 Relationships with Partners	Claire Monaghan		
Key:	= Effective	= Some Concerns	= Major Concerns
Note: In the transition period until the new Head of Regulatory Services takes up post, the responsibilities that formerly rested with the Head of Legal Services have been scrutinised and signed off by the Chief Executive.			

- 4.3 This assessment reflects a similar position over that reported for 2016/17, with 14 aspects assessed as 'Effective' with 4 remaining as having 'Some Concerns' i.e. there are some areas that we recognise could be improved upon.
- 4.4 All 18 aspects will be either maintained, refined or improved over the coming year, through the actions identified within the assessment. Progress against these actions will be monitored through Pentana, to facilitate reporting and scrutiny.
- 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.
- 4.6 All of this has been undertaken within the Council's existing framework. Last year at this time it was recommended that the new Council consider the updated 2016 CIPFA Governance Framework, to see how it could be tailored to both challenge and support the new Council's governance arrangements. However, as the year progressed, this was not seen as being helpful whilst the priorities of the new Council were being worked through and as new officer structures were being developed and implemented.
- 4.7 With these new arrangements now starting to settle into place, there is a fresh opportunity to look at the updated Framework. Work is currently progressing to draft an updated framework for consideration by the new Head of Regulatory Services by 30 Jun 18. The intention would then be to bring a recommended updated framework before this Panel on 29 August 2018.

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 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

7. Human Resources Implications

- 7.1 There are no human resource implications arising from this report.

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.

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, Strategic and Community Planning, and the contents of this report reflect any feedback provided.

Background Papers **Report to Audit and Governance Panel of 18 April 2017 –
[Delivering Good Governance – 2016/17 Assessment](#)**

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