



**SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

Governance and Audit Committee

20 April 2022

Report by Councillor Linda Wootten, Cabinet Member
for Corporate Governance and Licensing



Delivering Good Governance – External Review

To provide the Governance and Audit Committee with a final report on the progress made against the implementation plan following an external review into delivering good governance.

Report Author

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Corporate Priority:	Decision type:	Wards:
A High Performing Council	Governance	All Wards

Reviewed by:	Alan Robinson (Deputy Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer)	7 March 2022
Approved by:	Karen Bradford (Chief Executive)	7 March 2022
Signed off by:	Councillor Linda Wootten (Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance and Licensing)	7 March 2022

Recommendation (s) to the decision maker (s)

1. That the Governance and Audit Committee note the content of the final report on the progress made against the implementation plan following an external review into delivering good governance and identify any areas where further action is required.

1 The Background to the Report

- 1.1 In September 2019 the Council commissioned an external review into the organisation's governance entitled 'Delivering Good Governance'.
- 1.2 The review highlighted that there were several positive aspects to the Council's governance and identified some aspects of the Local Code of Governance that were not working as intended.
- 1.3 An implementation plan was presented to the Governance and Audit Committee at its meeting held on 30 November 2020, outlining specific actions to address those aspects where improvements could be made. The implementation plan was approved, with the actions complementing those as set out in the Governance Statement 2019/20.
- 1.4 It was noted in the report on 30 November 2020 that several changes had occurred during the intervening period of the review, namely the appointment of a new Chief Executive and the development and adoption of the Council's Corporate Plan 2020-23. A number of the actions had therefore already been completed or significantly progressed prior to the formal adoption of the implementation plan.
- 1.5 It had been agreed that progress against the implementation plan would be reported through to the Governance and Audit Committee. A final report outlining progress against actions included in the implementation plan is therefore attached to this report at Appendix A.
- 1.6 Since the undertaking of this review, other significant reviews on the Council's planning function and overview and scrutiny function have been undertaken, as well as the Council's participation in the Local Government Association's Corporate Peer Challenge. Work is underway to identify common themes, areas of good practice and further areas for development across all reviews undertaken in order to drive forward improvements and, where necessary, incorporate these as part of the revised Corporate Plan 2022-25.

2 Consultation and Feedback Received, Including Overview and Scrutiny

- 2.1 No additional consultation has been carried out to date.

3 Available Options Considered

- 3.1 Note progress against the implementation plan.
- 3.2 Identify any areas where further action is required.

4 Preferred Option

- 4.1 The preferred option is to note the progress against the implementation plan and, if necessary, identify any areas where further action is required.

5 Reasons for Recommendation(s)

- 5.1 To formally receive and note the report and confirm closure of the review.

6 Next Steps – Communication and Implementation of the Decision

- 6.1 Progress set out against actions contained within the implementation plan have already been put into effect. Any relevant outstanding actions or areas for further development will be reflected in the revised Corporate Plan 2022-25.

7 Financial Implications

7.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Financial Implications reviewed by: Richard Wyles, Interim Chief Finance Officer

8 Legal and Governance Implications

8.1 There are no legal and governance implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications reviewed by: Graham Watts, Assistant Director Governance and Deputy Monitoring Officer

9 Equality and Safeguarding Implications

9.1 The external review on governance sought to embed robust and transparent processes. Although the implementation of the report will not have a direct impact on equality and safeguarding it will improve the framework for decision making and positively impact the Council accordingly.

10 Appendices

10.1 Appendix A – Implementation Plan Progress Against Actions