

REPORT TO AUDIT COMMITTEE - WEDNESDAY, 17 APRIL 2024

CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

1 Executive Summary/Recommendations

1.1 Audit Committee is requested to consider and comment on the Corporate Improvement Plan and note that consideration of the report forms part of the Committee's scrutiny role. An integrated impact assessment is not required as this report is to update the Committee on improvement actions and does not have any impact on those with protected characteristics or those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage.

1.2 The Committee is recommended to:

1.2.1 Consider and comment on the Corporate Improvement Plan ("the Plan") (attached as Appendix 1 to this report); and

1.2.2 Consider, comment and agree the reviewed governance arrangements for the Corporate Improvement Plan as detailed in this Report; and

1.2.3 Agree to receive quarterly updates.

2 Decision Making Route

2.1 The Audit Committee at its meeting on [17 September 2020](#) agreed that all corporate improvement action plans would be merged into one corporate improvement plan (the Plan). The Plan is reported to Audit Committee on a quarterly basis and six-monthly to Policy Committees to enhance transparency and accountability and to provide Members with assurance around progression of agreed actions.

2.2 The Plan supports the Council to demonstrate compliance with our [Code of Corporate Governance](#) and the CIPFA Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework as well as our [duty to deliver Best Value](#). Whilst the Best Value actions are identified by Audit Scotland, other actions are identified through self-evaluation and reviews of governance arrangements. It is important to note that the actions are not performance indicators and have not been identified in response to poor performance, nor to achieve particular outcomes or deliver Council priorities. The actions contribute to the operation of the Council's governance framework, the assessment of corporate governance and delivery of Best Value.

2.3 The Plan attached to this report was extracted from Pentana, the Council's corporate performance and risk platform, on 7 March 2024.

2.4 The Plan was last considered by Committee at its meeting on [9 November 2023](#).

3 Discussion

- 3.1 Since the Plan was last considered by Committee in November 2023, Full Council has agreed the Best Value Thematic Action Plan and Wider Scope Action Plan. These have now been added to the Corporate Improvement Plan and are included within Appendix 1. Good progress has been made with actions in the new plans with 4 actions complete and 9 in progress.
- 3.2 Steady progress continues across other plans with an increase in completed actions from 35 to 48 since November 2023. The number of overdue actions has stayed the same at 1. The number of actions in progress has declined from 12 to 11. The action in the BV 2020 Plan relating to Housing relets remains at 90% complete with a target date of 31 March 2024. The Service has advised that meter issues, with suppliers not attending to fit new meters following improvement works, continue to be a significant challenge in completing this action.
- 3.3 A review of the Corporate Improvement Plan has been carried out during early 2024. When the Plan was introduced in 2020, it was agreed that Audit Committee would receive quarterly updates, with 6 monthly updates going to Policy Committees. Taking account of feedback from Members, Committee is requested to consider and agree a reviewed approach which would see the Corporate Improvement Plan reported 6 monthly to Full Council, rather than to individual Policy Committees. This is in line with the governance arrangements in place for the Best Value plans. This approach would continue to allow full scrutiny of the Plan by Members, would potentially raise awareness and debate around the actions and would reduce agenda time at Policy Committees. Committee is requested to consider and agree this approach.

4 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

- 4.1 This report helps deliver all six of the Council's Strategic Priorities

Pillar	Priority
Our People	Learning for Life Health & Wellbeing
Our Environment	Climate Change Resilient Communities
Our Economy	Economic Growth Infrastructure and public assets

- 4.2 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendations are agreed.

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial			x
Staffing			x
Equalities and Fairer Duty Scotland			x
Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing			x

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Climate Change and Sustainability			X
Health and Wellbeing			X
Town Centre First			X

- 4.3 The screening section as part of Stage One of the Integrated Impact Assessment has not identified the requirement for any further detailed assessments to be undertaken because the report is to Audit Committee on arrangements for performance improvement and there will be no impact, as a result of the report, on people with protected characteristics.
- 4.4 The following [Corporate Risks](#) have been identified as relevant to this matter on a Corporate Level:
- ACORP001 – budget pressures
 - ACORP002 – changes in government policy, legislation and regulation (including Education reforms and potential impact on integration of children’s services; EU Exit)
 - ACORP004 – business and organisation change (including ensuring governance structures support change; managing the pace of change)
 - ACORP006 – reputation management including social media
 - ACORP007 – social risk (e.g. population changes, poverty and social inequality, demographic changes, crime and anti-social behaviour)

5 Scheme of Governance

- 5.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and had no comments to make and are satisfied that the report complies with the [Scheme of Governance](#) and relevant legislation.
- 5.2 The Committee is able to consider and take a decision on this item in terms of Section G.1.2.a. of the [List of Committee Powers in Part 2A](#) of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to the review of internal control systems.

Rob Simpson

Director of Business Services

Report prepared by Fiona McCallum, Strategy & Innovation Manager
25 March 2024

List of Appendices –

Appendix 1: Corporate Improvement Plan extracted on 7 March 2024