

WDC Annual Governance Statement 2022/23: Action Plan for Governance Issues

Review of Progress

AGS Ref.	Governance Issue	Responsibility	Progress to Date:	
			Previously-reported Position	Position as at beginning of December 2023
6.1.1	The breadth and volume of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's workload.	Senior Leadership Team	<p>A report was considered by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 8 August 2023. This was developed with the Chairman of the Committee sets an approach for developing any revisions to scrutiny for the 2024/25 municipal year.</p> <p>The capacity of the Committee has been increased for this year by four additional meetings plus the retention of the Budget Review Group.</p>	<p>With support from officers, the Chairman of the Committee has developed a proposal that he will be sharing with the Committee ahead of the meeting (on 5 December 2023). If the Committee supports this draft proposal, it will be developed into a full report for the Committee to consider at its meeting in January 2024.</p>
6.1.2	The presentation of Cabinet reports that mitigate effective scrutiny of them.	Senior Leadership Team	<p>This is covered at present by the ongoing work by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on its workload. It has increased its number of meetings to enable greater time to focus on cabinet reports.</p>	As above.

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6.1.3	The range of skills that are required by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to enable effective scrutiny, particularly in respect of financial expertise.	Senior Leadership Team	The report to Committee on 8 August 2023 also set out an agreed training plan for Councillors, including scrutiny, in Finance matters. This plan had been developed by the Head of Finance, Head of Governance, Chairman of Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Chairman of Audit & Standards and Portfolio Holder for Resources. Overview & Scrutiny Training has been provided post-election for all Councillors and more work is planned for this area.	As above.
6.1.4	The lack of clarity over the role and operation of Programme Advisory Boards.	Senior Leadership Team	This discussion is being led by the Leader in partnership with Group Leaders.	A proposal for revised working parties is set out within the Service Area Plan report to Cabinet on 6 December 2023 and is due to be discussed in more detail by the Leadership Co-ordination group on 4 December 2023.