

 <b>Finance &amp; Audit/ EXECUTIVE</b> <b>20<sup>th</sup> / 21<sup>st</sup> August 2019</b>		<b>Agenda Item No. 9c</b>
<b>Title</b>	Update on Action Plan following Review of Closure of Accounts	
<b>For further information about this report please contact</b>	Andrew Jones (01926) 456830 <a href="mailto:Andrew.jones@warwickdc.gov.uk">Andrew.jones@warwickdc.gov.uk</a>	
<b>Wards of the District directly affected</b>	All	
<b>Is the report private and confidential and not for publication by virtue of a paragraph of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006?</b>	No	
<b>Date and meeting when issue was last considered and relevant minute number</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> /10 <sup>th</sup> July 2019, F&A and Executive respectively	
<b>Background Papers</b>	Report as above	

<b>Contrary to the policy framework:</b>	No
<b>Contrary to the budgetary framework:</b>	No
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No
<b>Included within the Forward Plan? (If yes include reference number)</b>	No
<b>Equality &amp; Sustainability Impact Assessment Undertaken</b>	No
Not applicable.	

<b>Officer/Councillor Approval</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>
Chief Executive	29 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	Chris Elliott
CMT	29 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	Chris Elliott, Bill Hunt, Andrew Jones
Section 151 Officer	29 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	Mike Snow
Monitoring Officer	17 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	Andrew Jones
Head of Service	29 <sup>th</sup> July 2019	Mike Snow
Portfolio Holder(s)	5 <sup>th</sup> August 2019	Councillor Hales
<b>Consultation &amp; Community Engagement</b>		
<b>Final Decision?</b>	Yes, but some proposed actions will require further reports.	

## 1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This is a monthly report which will set out the progress on the agreed action plan that was agreed in the report on the Review of the Closure of 2017/18 Accounts in October 2018.

## 2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee notes and provides any comments on the content of the action plan at Appendix 1.
- 2.2 That the Committee notes that the Council's audited accounts for 2018/19 were signed-off by the statutory deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019.

## 3 REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Appendix sets out the monthly progress report on the action plan agreed following the Review of the Closure of the 2017/18 Accounts. Progress is to be noted and for the Executive and the Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee to make any comments.
- 3.2 Members will by now be aware that the Council's auditor has signed-off audited accounts by the statutory deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019. This is a significant turn-around given the issues revealed by the failure to comply with the sign-off requirements last year. Much praise must go to the Finance team for responding so positively to that setback. A detailed report will be submitted to the November Executive meeting describing the steps that will be taken to ensure that compliance is achieved again next year and for each subsequent year.

## 4 POLICY FRAMEWORK

- 4.1 Fit for the Future (FFF)

The Council's FFF Strategy is designed to deliver the Vision for the District of making it a Great Place to Live, Work and Visit. Amongst other things, the FFF Strategy contains Key projects.

The FFF Strategy has 3 strands – People, Services and Money and each has an external and internal element to it. The Council's SAP's are the programme of work fundamental to the delivery of the strands described in the table below.

<b>FFF Strands</b>		
<b>People</b>	<b>Services</b>	<b>Money</b>
<b>External</b>		
<b>Health, Homes, Communities</b>	<b>Green, Clean, Safe</b>	<b>Infrastructure, Enterprise, Employment</b>
<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Improved health for all Housing needs for all met Impressive cultural and sports activities Cohesive and active communities	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Area has well looked after public spaces All communities have access to decent open space Improved air quality Low levels of crime and	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Dynamic and diverse local economy Vibrant town centres Improved performance/productivity of local economy Increased employment

	ASB	and income levels
Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
<b>Internal</b>		
<b>Effective Staff</b>	<b>Maintain or Improve Services</b>	<b>Firm Financial Footing over the Longer Term</b>
<u>Intended outcomes:</u> All staff are properly trained All staff have the appropriate tools All staff are engaged, empowered and supported The right people are in the right job with the right skills and right behaviours	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Focusing on our customers' needs Continuously improve our processes Increase the digital provision of services	<u>Intended outcomes:</u> Better return/use of our assets Full Cost accounting Continued cost management Maximise income earning opportunities Seek best value for money
The proposed action plan will help the Accountancy team and individual members of staff.	The proposed action plan implemented in full will enable a better financial service to be provided to the Council and the community it serves.	Not directly applicable though an improved service should enable the Council to deliver better outcomes on its finances.

#### 4.2 **Supporting Strategies**

Each strand of the FFF Strategy has several supporting strategies. The People Strategy is the most relevant here but what is being proposed is directly in line with that Strategy.

#### 4.3 **Changes to Existing Policies**

The action plan agrees a minor change to existing policies in relation to agency staff.

#### 4.4 **Impact Assessments**

Not applicable.

### **5 BUDGETARY FRAMEWORK**

5.1 There are no budgetary implications as a consequence of this report.

### **6 RISKS**

6.1 The risk that arises relates to not implementing what is proposed; the risk being a repetition of events of this year and the subsequent harm to the Council's reputation.

### **7 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

7.1 Various actions were considered in the development of the action plan but what is proposed is considered to be an appropriate response to the issues which have been identified.

## **8 BACKGROUND**

8.1 The Background is set out in the report to the Executive of 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018.