

Appendices:

1. Governance report



NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

Report Title	Governance Report Update
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AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC

Audit Committee Meeting Date: 25th March 2021

Policy Document: Governance Report

Services: Chief Finance Officer

Accountable Cabinet Member: Jonathan Nunn - Leader

1. Purpose

1.1.1 This report provides an assurance that the Governance items that were reported quarterly to Audit Committee, will be handed over to the relevant Directorates in the new authorities.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Committee note the contents of the report.

3. Issues of note

3.1 Report Background

Previously, the Audit Committee was presented with a quarterly governance statement to give assurance of controls and process improvements within NBC.

As of the 1st April, the Governance team will transfer into various Directorates within West Northamptonshire Council (WNC), appendix 1 gives a summary of the services and to where they will transfer to give assurance of handover of historical information.

3.2 Issues

Below is a summary of how the information currently managed by the Governance Team will be managed by the new authority:

Corporate Risk Register -

- A Corporate Risk Register has been developed by the WNC by Senior Management amalgamating the information supplied on Corporate registers by the Districts and Boroughs. The Corporate Risk Register has not been made public at this time. Future risk registers will be maintained through the audit and risk function on behalf of the Executive Director Finance (S151).

Emergency planning –

- Separate teams will provide cover for the Covid-19 response and for the wider Emergency planning service for Northamptonshire and will be hosted by North Northamptonshire Council for the first 12 months on behalf of WNC.

Health & Safety –

- Outstanding audit and inspection recommendations will be transferred to the H & S team at WNC for completion.

GDPR/Information Governance –

- Data Protection services will transfer to Legal & Democratic Services
- Outstanding FOI requests and Ombudsman cases will be transferred with the relevant team.
- An NBC officer has been appointed as the Interim Data Protection Officer for WNC

Audit, internal control & Risk –

- The audit, internal control and risk function will transfer to the Finance Directorate.
- Outstanding audit and internal control recommendations will be followed up by the WNC audit team.
- Learning & Development will be hosted by North Northamptonshire and will service both authorities.
- HR & Payroll will transfer to the Corporate Services Directorate (HR Advisory)

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

4.1.1 There are no policy changes as a result of this report.

4.1.2 There may be various impacts and changes to current policies in the newly formed authority, we are aware that WNC has adopted a new constitution and with that changes to delegations and controls.

4.2 Resources and Risk

4.2.1 The resourcing for the governance services detailed above are in the process of being determined by West Northamptonshire Council.

4.3 Legal

4.3.1 None to report at present.

4.4 Equality

4.4.1 Whilst there are no specific equality implications at this stage, various policies will be reviewed through the improvements in procedures throughout the newly formed authorities. All reviews will be supported by equality and community impact assessments.

4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)

4.5.1 Internal consultation has taken place where required.

4.6 Other Implications

4.6.1 None specifically

5. Background Papers

5.1 None at present

Joanne Bonham, Governance & Risk Manager