

Report To: Corporate Governance Committee

Date of Meeting: 23 March 2016

Lead Member / Officer: Ivan Butler – Head of Internal Audit

Report Author: Ivan Butler – Head of Internal Audit

Title: **Corporate Safeguarding Update**

1. What is the report about?

This report provides an update on progress in implementing the action plan that accompanied the Internal Audit report on Corporate Safeguarding in August 2015.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

This report is to provide information on how the Council is implementing improvements in corporate safeguarding since the issue of the Internal Audit report in 2015. The audit report gave 'Low Assurance', so the Corporate Governance Committee requested a progress report to ensure that the issues are being addressed.

3. What are the Recommendations?

The Committee to review progress and decide whether it requires a further progress report.

4. Report details

Appendix 1 is the Internal Audit follow up report, which shows that good progress is being made with implementing the action plan. In particular, governance has been improved and the Safeguarding Panel has a more focused work programme so it can prioritise its work and monitor performance. There is now more dedicated resource being applied to corporate safeguarding through the Chair of the Panel increasing his involvement, including meetings with service Panel representatives.

There is still some work to do to ensure that members of staff and elected members are aware of their responsibilities for corporate safeguarding, including a promotion campaign to launch the new Corporate Safeguarding Policy. In addition, the planned corporate training module needs to be developed and implemented and all elected members need to attend the mandatory corporate safeguarding training sessions.

Given the progress made with the action plan, we have improved our assurance rating to 'Medium'.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

Not applicable - there is no decision required with this report.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

Not applicable - there is no decision required with this report.

- 7. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision? The completed EqIA template should be attached as an appendix to the report**
Not applicable - there is no decision required with this report.
- 8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?**
Not applicable - there is no decision required with this report.
- 9. Chief Finance Officer Statement**
Not applicable - there is no decision required with this report.
- 10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?**
Not applicable - there is no decision required with this report.
- 11. Power to make the Decision**
Not applicable - there is no decision required with this report.