

**Report To:** Corporate Governance Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 29 November 2017

**Lead Member / Officer:** Alan Smith – Head of Business Improvement & Modernisation

**Report Author:** Lisa Lovegrove – Chief Internal Auditor

**Title:** Governance Improvement Plan Update

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**1. What is the report about?**

This report provides an update on progress in implementing the governance improvement plan that accompanied the Annual Governance Statement 2016/17.

**2. What is the reason for making this report?**

This report is to provide information on how the Council is implementing improvements in governance arrangements since the issue of the Annual Governance Statement in July 2017.

**3. What are the Recommendations?**

The Committee to review and comment on progress.

**4. Report details**

Appendix 1 is the Governance Improvement Action Plan, which shows good progress in implementing the action plan with two actions completed ahead of schedule and three on course to meet their deadline.

Internal Audit has completed its review of 'Citizens Advice Denbighshire' to review the governance arrangements of the alternative service provider and gave a High Assurance overall. The first phase of the 'Managing the Risk of Fraud' review against the Cipfa code of practice is complete with the second phase in progress that is focusing on staff awareness and adoption of relevant policies and procedures. Proposed improvements identified by the WAO in its report '*Savings Planning – Denbighshire County Council*' are in place, specifically: an income charging policy and risk rating of savings is now built into the budget process.

There are still some areas in progress, which are all on course to achieve their expected deadline of March 2018. A council policy for staff taking personal data off-site has been drafted and is out to consultation, and a range of actions are planned in response to the WAO report '*Good governance when determining significant service changes – Denbighshire County Council*'.

**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.