

Appendix 1 - Governance Improvement Action Plan

Ref.	Improvement actions for 2020/21	Agreed action	Progress as at January 2021
1	Review, update and promote the Strategy for the Prevention of Fraud, Corruption & Bribery. <i>Ongoing from 2018/19</i>	<p>Periodic review of the Strategy and raise awareness as relevant. This will align to the recently published “Fighting Fraud and Corruption Locally Strategy 2020” for Local Government.</p> <p>Monitoring Officer & Chief Internal Auditor, 31 December 2020.</p>	<p>Revised Strategy and Fraud Response Plan drafted and circulated to Monitoring Officer for initial comments before wider circulation.</p> <p><i>Revised date 31 March 2021.</i></p>
2	Financial sustainability of the Council is under substantial pressure due to Covid-19 costs and loss of income.	<p>Emergency budget announcement from Welsh Government (WG) received on 27 May 2020, await clarification of specific allocation to each Authority.</p> <p>Emergency Financial Strategy reported to Cabinet in May 2020 with action to review and produce a Medium Term Financial Strategy and Plan.</p>	<p>Position reported monthly to Cabinet. WG Announcement of funding on 17th August and subsequent statements provided further assurance of WG financial support for the rest of 2020/21. As at December’s report over £11m of</p>

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		Head of Finance & Property Services, 31 July 2020.	financial support had been received by DCC.
3	Finalise and promote the Partnership Framework. <i>Ongoing from 2018/19</i>	Partnership framework to be presented to Cabinet and Corporate Governance & Audit Committee and requirements communicated to relevant persons. Strategic Planning & Performance Manager, 31 December 2020	Document ready and translated – some alterations to ensure compatibility and links, then ready for tabling at committees. <i>Revised date 31 March 2021</i>
4	Ongoing work to promote the officer's code of conduct, declaration of interest, gifts and hospitality and whistleblowing policy. <i>Ongoing from 2018/19</i>	Monitoring completion of mandatory e-learning modules and managers to ensure completion by all staff. Improve arrangements for ensuring staff are prompted to declare conflicts of interest, gifts and hospitality. Strategic HR Manager, 31 March 2021	The e-learning has continued throughout Covid and will now be an on-going action. <i>Ongoing</i> Initial presentations to service management meetings began before lockdown. These were halted during pandemic response. Final audit report on ethical culture about to be

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			<p>released with action plan that includes measures relating to awareness raising and refresh of guidance.</p> <p><i>Revised date 31 December 2021</i></p>
5	<p>Online meetings for council, scrutiny and Corporate Governance & Audit Committee to be established that is available for the public to attend (e.g. live streaming, webcast).</p>	<p>Planning Committee, Cabinet and Member Area Groups meeting remotely in May 2020. Corporate Governance & Audit Committee to meet remotely in July 2020.</p> <p>Council and scrutiny to meet as soon as capacity and capability allows.</p> <p>Monitoring Officer, 30 September 2020</p>	<p>Remote meetings are now in place for council, scrutiny committees and Corporate Governance & Audit Committee.</p> <p>Work to upgrade equipment and systems in the Council Chamber has been completed to enable virtual meetings to be broadcast to the public. Live testing of the system has taken place during the webcast of recent meetings of Partnerships Scrutiny and Planning Committee.</p> <p>As a result of this testing, it is</p>

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			<p>anticipated that a formal announcement may be made that webcasting will commence for all meetings beginning with Cabinet on 19th January 2021.</p>
6	<p>Covid-19 impact on services (including education and social services) and future provision.</p>	<p>Recovery plans established and informed by latest guidance released by government.</p> <p>Senior Leadership Team (SLT), 31 March 2021</p>	<p>Recovery themes agreed and managed by SLT and relevant Lead Member. Oversight provided by the scrutiny committees and Corporate Governance & Audit Committee.</p> <p>Present situation with Covid-19 pandemic means that the Council is again focusing on response. SLT are now meeting weekly and SEMT (Strategic Emergency Management Team) has been reinstated.</p> <p><i>Ongoing</i></p>

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7	Newly formed alternative delivery vehicle 'Denbighshire Leisure Limited' – review effectiveness of governance arrangements, including management of potential conflicts of interest, and impact of covid-19.	<p>Governance structure in place.</p> <p>Internal Audit of Denbighshire Leisure Limited during 2020/21.</p> <p>Chief Internal Auditor, 31 March 2021</p>	Internal Audit of Denbighshire Leisure Limited planned for Q4 2020/21.
8	Address contract management weaknesses highlighted by Internal Audit.	<p>SLT to inform the production of a revised action plan to be presented to Corporate Governance & Audit Committee.</p> <p>Monitoring Officer & Head of Finance & Property Services by November 2020</p> <p>Progress with delivering the action plan to be monitored by Internal Audit and Corporate Governance & Audit Committee.</p> <p>Chief Internal Auditor, 31 March 2021</p>	Revised action plan agreed for contract management as reported to Corporate Governance & Audit Committee in January 2021. Internal Audit and Corporate Governance & Audit Committee will follow up progress with implementing the agreed actions.

