



Northumberland County Council

Audit Committee

29th November 2023

Governance Review – Update on Continued Progress

Report of: Stephen Gerrard, Director of Law and Governance

Responsible Officer(s): Stephen Gerrard, Director of Law and Governance

1. Link to Key Priorities of the Corporate Plan

Good governance underpins effective delivery of all three priorities outlined in the Corporate Plan 2023-26: Achieving Value for Money; Tackling Inequalities and Driving Economic Growth.

2. Purpose of report

The report summaries progress on delivering the Council's action plan following the independent review of governance undertaken in 2022.

3. Recommendations

3.1 Audit Committee Members are invited to:

- Consider and comment on progress on delivering the Council's action plan following the independent review of governance undertaken in 2022.

4. Forward plan date and reason for urgency if applicable

Not applicable.

5. Background

- 5.1 At its final meeting (4th July 2023) Members Oversight Group (MOG) received a briefing paper outlining how ongoing activities linked to the Independent Review of Governance (2022) will be taken forward and monitored.
- 5.2 That briefing set out how most activities will be integrated into the BEST work programme with others being overseen by Council Committees, e.g. Constitution Working Group.
- 5.3 Group Leaders receive a bi-monthly overview of these actions and activities through their regular meetings. Group Leaders received an update at their meeting on 29th September and again, at their meeting of 24th November. This update is set out in the table on appendix 1 of this report.
- 5.4 It is proposed the Economic Growth and Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee will provide cross-party oversight of BEST, incorporating the governance Review activities referred to above. With the Chair’s agreement, Officers will do this through six-monthly progress reports.

Options open to the Council and reasons for the recommendations

- 5.5 Not applicable.

6. Implications

Policy	Good governance underpins effective delivery of all three priorities outlined in the Corporate Plan 2023-26: Achieving Value for Money; Tackling Inequalities and Driving Economic Growth
Finance and value for money	There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.
Legal	There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.
Procurement	There are no specific Procurement implications within this report.
Human resources	There are no specific HR implications within this report.
Property	There are no specific Property implications within this report.
The Equalities Act: is a full impact assessment required and attached?	There are no specific Equalities implications within this report.. No EIA is required for this report as no change of services is proposed.
Risk assessment	There are no specific risk implications within this report.

Crime and disorder	There are no specific crime implications within this report.
Customer considerations	There are no specific customer implications within this report.
Carbon reduction	There are no specific carbon reduction implications within this report.
Health and wellbeing	There are no specific health and wellbeing implications within this report.
Wards	All Wards

7. Background papers

N/A

8. Links to other key reports already published

N/A

9. Author and Contact Details

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