

REPORT TO	DATE OF MEETING
Cabinet	6th December 2016



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SUBJECT	PORTFOLIO	AUTHOR	ITEM
Scrutiny Review of Licensing	Leader	Chief Executive	4

SUMMARY AND LINK TO CORPORATE PRIORITIES

This report sets out proposed improvement actions relating to the recommendations agreed by the Scrutiny Committee as part of the Review of Licensing in October 2016. The recommendations have been noted by Council and proposed actions have been considered, where appropriate, by the Governance Committee on 23rd November 2016.

The proposals link directly to the Council’s corporate priority to be an “efficient, effective and exceptional council”.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- Consider and endorse the proposed actions as the basis of their response to the Scrutiny Committee and as part of the Council’s Annual Governance Statement.
- Endorse the development of a more detailed action plan incorporating key milestones and targets for monitoring both by the Employment Panel (who are responsible for overseeing the performance of the Interim Chief Executive) and by Scrutiny Committee, Governance Committee and Cabinet as appropriate.
- Agree match funding of up to £70,000 to enable the Interim Chief Executive to secure additional capacity support on governance and legal workloads. This will be supplemented with significant support from the LGA for proposals relating to governance, project management, communications, surveys, training and development.
- Approve a Residents Survey to be carried out as soon as practicable by the LGA, with a further survey six months on to enable progress to be measured.
- Endorse the Governance Committee’s strong recommendation that all members diligently adopt and follow all of the principles outlined in the Governance Framework and ensure they are fully implemented moving forward.

DETAIL

Following the publication of the Scrutiny Review of Licensing and consideration of the proposed Annual Governance Statement, detailed discussions have taken place with key partners including the Council’s external auditors, the LGA and DCLG together with key officers and members.

The attached response has been shaped with their input and has also been considered, in part, by Governance Committee on 23rd November. The Governance Committee supported the proposed actions included in the draft Annual Governance Statement and have agreed that other actions supported by Cabinet should also be incorporated into the Annual Governance statement to be presented to the special Governance Committee on 14th December. The Committee also recommended that all members should diligently adopt and follow all of the principles outlined in the Governance Framework and ensure they are fully implemented moving forward.

It is proposed that the responses should be developed into a more detailed action plan and monitored on a timescale to be agreed. The LGA has agreed to provide project management support for the action plan in order to achieve this in addition to contributing capacity funding for governance and communications support.

The LGA has also offered to fund and commission two residents' surveys, one immediately and one six months on to measure progress. It is some time since the Council undertook a residents' survey and this would enable the Council to benchmark itself against other councils across the country who have used the same survey. The responses will also be developed into a more detailed action plan and monitored on a timescale to be agreed. The plan will need to be agile and flexible in order to respond to changing circumstances and events and will be kept under review.

Finally, the LGA will provide grant funding to enable the Council to commission the Centre for Public Scrutiny to deliver training and development to support and strengthen the Council's governance arrangements.

The Council is required to match fund the resources provided by the LGA with up to £70,000 to contribute to the additional senior governance support and to address backlogs created by additional demands on legal services.

WIDER IMPLICATIONS

In the preparation of this report, consideration has been given to the impact of its proposals in all the areas listed below, and the table shows any implications in respect of each of these. The risk assessment which has been carried out forms part of the background papers to the report.

FINANCIAL	The additional funding of £70,000 provided by the Council will be spent over two financial years. Approximately £50,000 will be spent in 2016/17 with the remaining £20,000 committed in 2017/18. This cost will be incurred to increase officer workload capacity and will be funded by way of a Funded Budget Increase to be authorised by the Chief Finance Officer in consultation with the Executive Member for Finance through the Council's scheme of delegation.		
LEGAL	The proposals will enable progress to be made with the Council's Annual Governance Statement. It is imperative that we make substantial progress against the action plan. To achieve this there needs to be additional capacity for governance and legal issues on a temporary basis. We must do everything practicable to ensure that our corporate governance arrangements are as robust as possible.		
RISK	The proposals in the report will strengthen the Council's governance arrangements, address areas for improvement and minimise risk moving forward. There would be significant risk in not implementing the recommendations given the current challenges the Council is facing.		
OTHER (see below)			
<i>Asset Management</i>	<i>Corporate Plans and Policies</i>	<i>Crime and Disorder</i>	<i>Efficiency Savings/Value for Money</i>
<i>Equality, Diversity and Community Cohesion</i>	<i>Freedom of Information/ Data Protection</i>	<i>Health and Safety</i>	<i>Health Inequalities</i>
<i>Human Rights Act 1998</i>	<i>Implementing Electronic Government</i>	<i>Staffing, Training and Development</i>	<i>Sustainability</i>

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Report to Scrutiny Committee October 2016