

APPENDIX 1

Annual Governance Statement 2022/2023 – Improvement Plan

March 2024 UPDATE

Ref	Area of Review	Improvement Identified for Implementation in 2021/22 AGS	Progress Reported As At June 2023	Improvement Identified for Implementation in 2023/2024 Improvement Owner and Completion Date	UPDATE
1	Vision Tameside (Carry Forward)	To complete the Ashton Town Hall project along with the remaining elements of the Vision Tameside project. Director of Place March 2022 and ongoing	This project is part of Tameside's Levelling Up Funding proposals. Completion aim is March 2025.	Completion of project by March 2025. Director of Place March 2025	Still scheduled to be finished by March 2025.
2	Children's Services (Carry Forward)	To monitor the revised improvement plan with delivery action and risks being tracked monthly. Director of Children's Services March 2023	Complete and ongoing. Eight-month stock take of the improvement plan monthly actions RAG rated and approved and signed off May 23 by Children's Improvement Board Quarterly monitoring of Improvement Plan undertaken by Children's Scrutiny Panel.	Revised improvement plan coproduced with partners and signed off at Children's Improvement Board April 23 agreed with DFE. Monthly actions tracked into Improvement Board forward plan and agenda reports schedule. External DFE 6-month review of progress 20/06/23. Director Children's Services March 2024	Ofsted inspection completed in December 2023, with the report published in February 2024.

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3	Management of CCTV (Carry Forward)	Capital investment to update the CCTV system as funding becomes available. Director of Place Autumn 2022	Action carried forward	Capital investment to update the CCTV system as funding becomes available. Assistant Director Place March 2025	Still on target to complete by March 2025.
4	ICT Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity Planning (Carry Forward)	Services to review and agree their system recovery priorities in conjunction with the IT Service. Once determined systems will need to be put in place to ensure Tier 1 systems have full recovery checks and tests undertaken annually and Tier 2 systems every other year. Director of Finance March 2023	Action carried forward	Services to review and agree their system recovery priorities in conjunction with the IT Service. Once determined systems will need to be put in place to ensure Tier 1 systems have full recovery checks and tests undertaken annually and Tier 2 systems every other year. Director of Resources March 2024	This work is programmed for Quarter 4 following the recruitment for the permanent Assistant Director – ICT & Digital in December 2023.
5	Information Governance (Carry Forward)	Delivery of the Information Governance Work Plan and review the Information Governance Service across the Council. Director of Governance and Pensions Director of Finance January 2023	Action carried forward	The Information Governance Work Plan has been regularly monitored in 2022/23 by the Information Governance Group. Capacity issues within the service has impacted upon progress. This will be addressed in 2023/24. Director of Resources Head of Assurance March 2024	The Information Governance Work Plan is monitored by the Information Governance Group. A few policies are due to be presented to Audit Panel in March 2024 as part of that work.

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6	Implementation of a Strategic Commissioning Function (Carry Forward)	<p>Until the proposed legislation is passed through Parliament, it is difficult to evaluate the risks ahead.</p> <p>As further clarity is received on the GM Integrated Care System, risks will be identified, evaluated and reported in accordance with the joint principles agreed across the Place based leadership model.</p> <p>Director of Finance/Single Leadership Team September 2022</p>	Action no longer relevant due to changes in GM moving forward with locality-based leads.		
7	Debtors (Carry Forward)	<p>Improvements to the Debtors System need to be embedded across the Council and these will then be tested by Internal Audit in the latter half of 2022/23 to provide assurance that the overall system is working effectively and fit for purpose.</p> <p>Director of Governance and Pensions Director of Finance March 2023</p>	Action carried forward	<p>Debtors has been included on the refreshed audit plan for 2023/24 and will be completed by Quarter 2.</p> <p>Head of Assurance December 2023</p>	<p>Implemented. Debtors audit completed, report in draft.</p>

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8	Compliance with the CIPFA Financial Management Code (Carry Forward)	To ensure that the nine improvements identified in the assessment conducted and reported to Executive Cabinet in April 2021 are implemented. Director of Finance March 2023	Action carried forward	A draft self-assessment was undertaken in June 2023 by Financial Management. This will be published in 2023/24 and reviewed by the Audit Panel as part of their 2023/24 work programme. Director of Resources September 2023	October 2023: The FM Code review is down on the audit plan for January 2024. It should be in the AGS going forward as part of the annual review. February 2024: FM Code presented to the Audit Panel.
9	Early Help Service (Carry Forward)	To review and implement the learning and improvements identified by the Peer Review conducted by Stockport Council in December 2020. Delivery of colocation of neighbourhood teams along with a newly identified Family Hubs work programme. Director of Children's Services December 2022	All learning and improvements implemented and responded to. Family Hubs launched and opened in January 23. New Early Help Strategy and delivery model agreed with Partners in May 23 due to be received at Cabinet June 23	As progress reported. Director of Children's Services June 2023	January 2024: The Family Hubs delivery plan has been approved by DFE and regular KIT meetings are held to ensure this is on track. Data returns are completed quarterly to DFE. The Early Help Strategy is in place and the delivery plan is currently being updated to share with the Early Help partnership, to utilise community services and create a whole system approach to Early Help.
10	Assurance (Risk & Audit)			Embed a model of assurance to the disciplines of risk and audit using the '3 lines approach'. Head of Assurance March 2024	Implemented Three lines introduced via new risk management process and integrated into audit planning approved by Audit Panel on 1 August 2023.

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11	Statutory Accounts sign off			Liaison with External Audit to expedite sign off of outstanding statutory accounts. Director of Resources March 2024	2020/21 Accounts signed off. 2021/22 Accounts ACR presented to February 2024 Audit Panel. Statutory backstop consulted on for September 2024 for 2022/23 Accounts. Plan in place to deliver 2022/23 Accounts prior to backstop.
12	Medium Term Financial Strategy			Implementation of a robust medium term financial strategy. Director of Resources February 2024 (Budget Council)	MTFS reported to Cabinet in July, October and December 2023. 2024/25 budget balanced and out to consultation until 2 Feb 2024. MTFS underpinned by external support and commissioned transformation expertise.
13				Embed a refreshed strategic delivery and performance framework during 2023/24. Head of Policy, Performance & Intelligence March 2024	Implemented Framework outline agreed by Executive Cabinet in September 2023. See link below. Item 5 - agenda for Executive Cabinet on Wednesday, 27th September, 2023, 1.00 pm (moderngov.co.uk) Subject to monitoring and considered embedded.