

Annual Governance Statement for Lincolnshire County Council 2011

Governance Issues

As a result of our review we have identified the following areas where further work is required to improve systems or monitor how the key risks facing the Council are being managed. These are:

Governance Issue	Lead Officer	Key Delivery Milestones	Date
<p>Adult Social Care Putting People First is a transformation programme to ensure that all people who may require adult social services support have access to information, advice and preventative services, thereby delaying or stopping their need for Adult Social Care. We have strengthened our programme and project arrangements in this area but there are still some key things we need to do to ensure our success and deliver a balanced budget</p>	Terry Hawkins	Personal Budgets to be provided to 50% of eligible people	April 2012
<p>Adult Services improving the way we deal with referral and assessments</p>	Susie Alexander	<p>Meeting performance targets and Improvement Plan</p> <p>Current Status</p> <p>Update being provided to Audit Committee by Executive Director – 19th December 2011</p>	July 2011

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<p>Value for Money Strategic Commissioning and how we manage our contracts – we need to improve the way we commission and monitor our contracts demonstrating value for money and driving up performance.</p> <p>Primarily this relates to Adult Social Care but there is clear scope for reviewing and improving such arrangements throughout the County Council</p>	<p>Terry Hawkins</p> <p>Management Board</p>	<p>Review all contracts</p> <p>Delivery of Improvement Plan</p> <p>Consider the need to strengthen skills and, if necessary, capacity within the authority to improve all aspects of the commissioning / contracting / client functions across all service areas</p> <p>Current Status</p> <p>Update being provided to Audit Committee by Executive Director – 19th December 2011</p>	<p>April 2012</p> <p>April 2012</p> <p>December 2011</p>
<p>Service Delivery Post Core Offer Transition and delivery of our ‘core offer’ of service delivery for the people of Lincolnshire – The Council needs respond to the very different political and financial environment it now operates within. We are now expected to do what we have to do – and what we wish to do – with a lot less money. We need implement major work force change and deliver savings of £125m over the next 4 years but predominately in the first 2 years. We will need to decide what we can continue to do, stop doing, scale down or look for others to take on. There will be some risks that need to be managed effectively as we move forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact on people – those who use our services and our staff. Minimising any disruption to our ‘core’ services. • Ensuring that we have good succession planning and handover arrangements in place where experienced staff leave us. 	<p>All Executive Directors, Asst Directors and Heads of Service.</p>	<p>Robust budget and service quality monitoring arrangements have to be applied for the foreseeable future in order to secure delivery of both the financial and service delivery aspects of the core offer review outcomes.</p> <p>Current Status</p> <p>Management Board and Executive monitoring as part of the Council’s performance framework and budget setting process.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact on our partners and key suppliers and ultimately the local economy. • Delivery of our savings ensuring our financial resilience for the future. • Ensuring that we prioritise our resources within tighter budgets whilst improving productivity and efficiency. 			
<p>Working with our Communities The Council has worked as a Community Budget national pilot on Families with Complex Needs and continued working on local priorities around 'Excellent Ageing' and 'Total Environment'. To date, these have not had significant impacts on governance because the anticipated shared budgets have not yet materialised. However, Community Budgets will remain a potential area of focus for governance as the Council has expressed formal interest in the expansion of Community Budgets, which should become clear on publication of a national prospectus at the end of September 2011.</p>	David O'Connor	Review of governance arrangements (as appropriate) Current Status Governance Group will commence a review of our governance arrangements in January 2012.	31 March 2012
<p>Reviewing our Governance and Assurance Arrangements The people of Lincolnshire need to have confidence in the way we work, we need to show high standards in public life. It's about how we do business – it's about good governance.</p> <p>We all know that there will be tough times ahead as we move to a new era of delivering public services to the people of Lincolnshire. During this time there is no doubt that our governance structures and processes will be tested.</p>	Lucy Pledge	Review of our Governance and Assurance arrangements in light of potential changes in the way we work and deliver services. Current Status Governance Group will commence a review of our governance arrangements in January 2012. Audit planned for February 2012.	December 2011

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<p>Financial Statements The basis under which the published financial statements of the authority are derived has, for all local authorities, undergone significant change for the 2010/11 statements in order to comply with International Financial Reporting Standards. Production of the statements has been challenging in both technical and resource terms. As a consequence the timetable originally agreed with External Audit for review of the statements was not achieved. Therefore the audited statements will not be approved by the Audit Committee and published by the statutory deadline of 30th September 2011. A revised date, of 31st October 2011, has been set.</p>	David Forbes	<p>A full review will be undertaken during the autumn of 2011 with Mouchel to understand the underlying issues behind the delays in producing the financial statements for last year and an action plan will be derived to ensure there is no repeat of the situation in future years.</p> <p>Current Status</p> <p>Update on lessons learned being provided to Audit Committee– 19th December 2011</p>	November 2011