

Annual Governance Statement for Lincolnshire County Council 2012 – Update January 2013

Governance Issue	Lead Officer(s)	Key Delivery Milestones	Date	Current Status as at 31 December 2012
<p>system to improve the health and well being of the people of Lincolnshire.</p> <p>Taking the opportunity to transform our service, ensuring that there is a robust transition plan in place which includes delegated responsibilities for delivery, sign off of financial plans, understanding of transition and delivery risks and working with partners for the best realignment of services.</p>		<p>Develop project infrastructure and plans.</p> <p>Deliver draft and final finance and performance plans for 2013/4 to LCC</p> <p>Deliver successful consultation and transfer of NHS Staff into LCC</p>	<p>Done</p> <p>November 2012</p> <p>March 2013</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Plan complete, Communication ongoing</p>
<p>Working with our Communities Our commitment to providing good public services – locally - is set out in our Big Society Strategy. We will continue to work with our communities to empower them to do things their way whilst looking at different delivery models for our services.</p> <p>We will seek to strengthen existing Councillor routes to raising and resolving issues whilst balancing local aspirations with our Business Plan Strategies.</p>	Tony Hill	<p>Agree strategy for external consultation with Executive.</p> <p>Consult widely on consultation draft and return final version to Executive.</p> <p>Develop detailed joint action plans with key partners.</p>	<p>Done</p> <p>September 2012</p> <p>December 2012</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p>
<p>Maintaining Financial Resilience We have been successful in delivering our savings agenda for 2010/11. However, we recognise that more still needs to be done to ensure we have the capability and capacity required to ensure this momentum is maintained to meet our medium and long term financial strategy.</p>	Pete Moore	The Council is likely to undertake a further fundamental review of its budget during 2013/14 in anticipation of the outcome of the next Spending Review. Implementation of actions arising from that work will be largely determined by the timing of the next Spending Review which may be in autumn 2013 or	Autumn 2013	No change. A fundamental review of priorities and budgets has been built into the budget process for 2013.

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<p>There are indications for further reductions in local government spending beyond the current Spending Review period of March 2015.</p> <p>In addition, a new funding regime based upon localisation of both business rate income and support for the Council Tax is due to commence from April 2013. These changes will introduce new levels of annual volatility into the income base of the Council.</p> <p>We are therefore making prudent provision in the reserves of the Council at this stage and are attempting to model the financial impact of both increased volatile and reduced funding as details emerge from Government over the coming months. We are also working constructively with our partner public bodies in the County to optimise the impact of these changes on the wider County.</p>		<p>autumn 2014.</p> <p>The 2011/12 outturn position has allowed the Council to make another substantial contribution to its Financial Volatility Reserve (£4.4m) which provides a temporary buffer to any adverse impact on the funding position of the Council.</p> <p>Constructive dialogue is underway with the Lincolnshire Districts to develop appropriate policies that will minimise the impact on all Lincolnshire authorities of currently planned changes to the funding for local government in England. In that context the minimisation of funding gaps arising from the new system of support for the council tax from April 2013 is critical. Local scheme will be approved in autumn 2012.</p>	Autumn 2012	<p>No change. It is anticipated that reserves will be topped up at the end of 2012/13 and partly utilised during 2013/14.</p> <p>Schemes have been developed with the District Councils to minimise the potential impact of the funding changes. This can only be assessed during the course of 2013/14.</p>
<p>Commissioning Organisation Working to influence and support sustainability and resilience of our providers – suppliers, partnerships and voluntary sector.</p> <p>We recognise that our commissioning and contract management skills need strengthening across the Council as we move to different delivery models. We</p>	David O'Connor	<p>The Council has expressed an intention to 'become a commissioning council'. A project (Phase 1) has been set up to define and design the Council's approach to Commissioning, securing buy-in from key stakeholders and appropriate informal and formal decisions. The key deliverables of this project are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Definition for Commissioning in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Report for Informal Exec in July 2012 ■ Recommendations on deliverables available for Exec by 31 December 2012 ■ Implementation 	<p>Report to Informal Executive on 15 January 2013 will show that all Phase 1 deliverables (previous column) have been met. High level plan for next phase has been agreed by</p>

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<p>need to improve our management oversight and rigour over our commercial relationships.</p> <p>Further work and resources are needed to ensure that we develop and implement an integrated commissioning strategy across public sector bodies in Lincolnshire.</p> <p>.</p>		<p>Lincolnshire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Core process for Commissioning with opportunities for outcome specific shaping ■ Clear accountability framework ■ Understanding of new payment models and when to use them ■ Skills needed / skills in place / gap analysis and plan to address gaps ■ Information / technology requirements to facilitate the approach. ■ Costed Implementation / transition plan (taking account of work in progress and Members priorities) 	<p>plan to ensure commissioning approach starts to inform the budget from autumn 2013 onwards with full adoption by autumn 2014 for the 2015-16 budget. (Timetable to enable advance preparation for next Comprehensive Spending Review)</p>	<p>Management Board.</p>
<p>Reviewing our Governance and Assurance Arrangements</p> <p>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>The Council continues to face some significant challenges – how we deliver services to the people of Lincolnshire will change. The Councils governance framework and assurance arrangements will need to adapt and respond to these</p>	<p>David O'Connor</p>	<p>We will assess our Governance and Assurance arrangements against the latest best practice, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ CIPFA / SOLACE Delivering Good Governance in Local Government ■ Grant Thornton Survey of Local Government governance arrangements ■ Centre of Public Scrutiny 	<p>February 2013</p>	<p>The Constitution has been amended as necessary e.g. for new Standards arrangements and will be amended further for e.g. new Public Health duties and implementation of the Commissioning programme.</p> <p>The Combined</p>

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<p>changes and different ways of working - less prescriptive in style, with balancing of risk & accountability. Good progress has been made on our Combined Assurance Model which provides assurance and insight on the operation of our critical activities and key risks. The outcome of which needs to be assessed by the Management Board and Audit Committee for any gaps.</p> <p>There continues to be some uncertainty over our accountability framework given the changes in Senior Management.</p>				<p>Assurance Model has progressed and results are being considered by the Audit Committee in January 2013 and the Management Board in February 2013.</p>
<p>Working with our Communities We will update our engagement strategy with customers, consumers and stakeholders to ensure that we listen and act on what we are being told.</p>	Richard Wills	Introduce mechanisms for testing citizens' opinions.	Commence Summer 2012	<p>A panel was recruited in June 2012. Survey undertaken in August 2012. A report was submitted to the Executive in September 2012 with feedback to participants sent on 5 December 2012. The next survey is due to take place in</p>
<p>This will include clarifying how we will get the best value for services in an environment of reduced resources.</p>	Richard Wills	Publish Corporate Communities' Engagement Strategy	December 2012	<p>January 2013.</p> <p>Publication has been deferred while the Corporate Management Board considers</p>

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				<p>engagements in the context of its commissioning strategy. We need to take into account aspects of citizenship as well as people as customers and consumers.</p>