Best Value Assurance Strategic Action Plan: MC 002

BVAR Strategic Summary Progress Update						
Committee Report Ref:	MC 002					
Report Date:	01/03/21					
Committee Date:	10/03/2021					

Key	Not Started	Concern	Caution	On Target	Complete		
RAG	% Completed	Target Date	Lead	Priority	Workstreams (BV Recommendations)	Status Update	Decisions Required/Made by cmt/smt
	70	May 2021	DCE (ECOD)	1	Increase the pace of Transformational Change	Work on investment options has advanced and is being framed in the context of the IMP transformation programme to present to council as next stage if IMP with focus on Education which was identified in the original IMP but is now being developed. Main risk is lack of resource for transformation as a result of vacancies. Overall progress has also been impacted and slowed as resources were diverted to Covid response and normal annual budget processes. As a result there are change request for timescales and the position will require ongoing monitoring review while resourcing is resolved. (Note: progress % excludes learning estate which is a major project on its own)	1.3.21: Change target date to May 2021
	50	July 2021	H/GSP	2	Improve Performance Management reporting/Improve the quality and clarity of Service Performance reporting	Reasonable progress has been made towards the target dates set and getting a revised structure in place. Restrictions on the time of senior officers and RIO's (due to Covid-19 response) have meant that there has been some slippage in these target dates and the quality of material produced is not as high as it could have been. There has also been slippage in the production of a national Local Government Benchmarking Framework (LGBF). It is anticipated that targets will substantially met although there will still be scope for further ongoing improvements.	
	35%	Feb 2022	DCE (EEF)	1	Financial Planning	Interim update drafted for council meeting 3 March 2021. Outline approach to balancing budget included and updated. Budget gap for next two years - medium to long term strategy under development - no firm figures to put against themes yet. Planned use of ear-marked reserves will link to priorities as very little spend to save.	
	30	Oct 2021	H/HR ICT & OD	3	Implement the Elected Member Development Strategy	Engagement with elected members well progressed with all offered 1 to 1 session with 70% participation rate. Draft activity plan prepared with a calendar of activity set out. This will be made available to EMs in conjunction with implementation of the development framework.	
	50	April 2021	H/GSP	4	Continue to progress the Governance Review	Good progress has been made in the review. All of the issues and options have been identified with the timing of decision making having been interrupted by the wider Covid-19 response. A further workstream, review of second tier governance documents has been identified and can be progressed meantime.	
	40	June 2023	H/E	2	Improve Educational Attainment	Progressing in all areas through a covid lens. Continuation of work within Education in relation to school improvement and improving education attainment, including key priorities, risks, actions and next steps arising from constant response to national guidance and directions on Covid-19 lockdown, recovery and return. Remote Learning continues with e-form survey issued to gather engagement/participation/entitlement information and outcomes to inform next steps in developing strategy. National e-learning offer continues to be developed with planned work for Easter 2021. Scoping for possible Easter 2021 Study Support sessions underway.	
	30	Dec 2021	н/н&Р	5	Improving satisfaction levels in Housing	Good progress being made. Require to amend target date for learning from other councils as all councils busy dealing with impact from current lockdown.	1.3.21: Maintain overall timescale but extend target date from June to August for learning from other councils.
	60	April 2021	CEx CPP		Continue working with CPP to determine clear outcomes and milestones and Performance reporting	CPP planning work is difficut to prioritise due to other pressures although effective working is continuing on the ground (e.g. in locality groups). An update report has been provided to the CPB indicating that draft delivery plans have been prepared and presenting the Child Povery Action plan. The aim is to present final plans to the next CPB in April.	
	50%	Oct 2021	CEx	1	Accounts Commission Findings: Need for clear committed and decisive leadership	Following research and benchmarking exercise, leadership development proposals will be drafted and presented for discussion to CMT. Joint Leadership / Members programme drafted with timeline and Finalise sequence and timings of implementation of the joint programme	

Key	Issues (I) Major Risks (R) Change Request (C)				
	Issues / Major Risks / Change Requests		Targets for Next Period		
1	(I) Increase the pace of transformational change: main issue is the emerging work which may need to be prioritised over the existing IMP programme	1	Increase the pace of transformational change: Lead officers to continue to define benefits and report via Boards; consideration of Investment Templates; flexible working group to meet and develop detailed actions for plan; report to council 24/3 on next phase IMP to determine prioritisation of programme of work; resolve resourcing for H/svc post and progress appr for Learning Estate		
2	(R) Increase the pace of transformational change: vacancy for H/Transformation and Inclusion Manager - impact on specific projects and overall programme	2	Improve performance management reporting: Detailed plan finalised and agreed, first development sessions scheduled; finalise format for Q4 (annual) service plan/performance reports; annual corporate plan report format prepared; establish a clear calendar and annual reporting cycle		
3	(R) Continue to progress the goverance review: Covid-19 response has delayed a final decision on committee structure.	3	Financial Planning: Draft prioritisation of investment templates		
4	(R) Impact on Senior Phase attainment through lack of long term clarity on expectations regarding provisional grades and any associated national moderation and appeals processes. Lack of clarity regarding National ACEL data collection and time available for robust assessment and moderation within the BGE.	4	Implement the Elected Member Development Strategy: CMT input to corporate development needs obtained		
5	(R) Wellbeing of all learners, their parents and staff on full return in order to reorientation and engage fully in learning and teaching activities, improving attainment.	5	Continue to progress the governance review: Proceed with review of second tier governance documents.		
6	(C) Improve satisfaction levels in Housing: Extend completion date for the "Learn from other Councils with higher satisfaction results" from June 2021 to August 2021. The return to lockdown has restricted the service and other authorities availability to respond to requests for information.	6	Continue work with CPP to determine clear outcomes and milestones and performance reporting: Finalise delivery plans for April Board; consult/engage with partners on poverty governance		
7		7	Improve satisfaction levels in Housing: Complete procurement assessment and tender documentation for a consultant to carryout the next tenant satisfaction survey		
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Programme Summary

There is progress in all areas but timescales have been revised in a number of workstreams in light of ongoing challenges in relation to the national pandemic. Members' attention is also drawn to the separate report to this meeting of Council on covid related pressures and the impact on council services.