

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT - UPDATE**SUMMARY:**

This report describes the work carried out towards the implementation of the actions defined within the Annual Governance Statement, which was presented to this Committee in May 2025.

RECOMMENDATION:

Members are requested to:

- i. Note the progress towards the implementation of the actions detailed within the Council's Annual Governance Statement.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Council is required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 to prepare and publish an Annual Governance Statement (AGS). Reporting publicly on the extent to which we comply with our own Local Code of Corporate Governance including how we have monitored the effectiveness of our arrangements in the year and on any planned changes to our governance arrangements in the coming year. The AGS was reported to this Committee on 22nd May 2025.
- 1.2 The review of the effectiveness of the Council's governance framework in 2024/25 identified areas for improvement to be actioned during 2025/26, which included the carried forward actions from the 2023/24 AGS. The progress against these actions is detailed within this report.

2 Progress towards actions within the Annual Governance Statement (AGS)

- 2.1 Members considered the AGS report (AUD25/04) which included actions to be implemented during 2025/26, in response to governance improvements identified in the AGS 2024/25.
- 2.2 The table below details the progress to date of items carried forward:

Actions outstanding from 2023/24 and carried forward for 2024/25

Action from 23/24 AGS	Original target date	Last update from May 2025	Revised target date	Update November 2025	Revised target date	Direction of travel
Following the changes in political control in May there are likely to be shifts in priorities which may require existing governance arrangements to be reviewed. This will be taken forward by the ELT supported by the governance group. Existing arrangements will have new appointments and training and briefing will be required for new appointees to be able to undertake governance roles effectively.	September 2024	As a result of the Corporate Peer Challenge and the CIPFA report the Council has commissioned a review of some elements of its committee and governance arrangements. This report will be considered once completed. The report will be considered in January 2025 with any changes agreed being brought in from May 2025.	January 2025	This report was considered and changes have been implemented.	N/A	Completed
The governance actions which transpire from the CIPFA review will be actioned accordingly.	TBC when actions from the report agreed	A Financial Resilience Plan has been agreed which incorporate actions from the CIPFA review and the peer challenge. Work towards the plan is regularly reviewed by ELT.	Ongoing	Work towards the financial resilience plan is continuing by the Senior Management Team.	Ongoing	Progressing ↑
A self-assessment against the CIPFA Financial Management Code will be carried out. The actions resulting from the self-assessment will be carried out to ensure compliance with the code.	September 2024 September 2025	The self-assessment against the CIPFA Financial Management Code has been carried out and further action is required to fully implement the requirements so that the Council is fully compliant with the code.	September 2025	Actions towards compliance with the code is ongoing with elements forming part of the Financial Resilience Plan.	March 2026	Progressing ↑

AUTHOR: Nikki Fleming, Financial Governance Manager & Deputy S151 Officer
01252 398810
nikki.fleming@rushmoor.gov.uk

HEAD OF SERVICE: Peter Vickers, Executive Head of Finance & S151 Officer

References:

- *Annual Governance Statement 2024/25 – reported to CGAS Committee 22nd May 2025*