

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Governance Boards – Effectiveness Review
Meeting/Date: Corporate Governance Committee – 10 October 2018
Executive Portfolio: Executive Member for Strategic Resources
Report by: Head of Resources
Ward(s) affected: All

Executive Summary:

A series of Governance Boards (GB) were established with the purpose to review internal governance across all Council services.

Following a review of the GB's in early 2017, four GB's were established with the aim of ensuring adherence to governance processes and practices in respect of:

- Information Management.
- Programmes & Projects.
- Finance & Procurement.
- Safeguarding.

Following an assessment by the lead of each GB, and an independent review by the Head of Resources, it is considered that in the main the GB's are achieving their agreed Terms of Reference. However, it is considered that the Senior Leadership Team should consider whether a further review of the GB's should be considered to ensure that the strategic risks noted in the [2017/18 Annual Governance Statement](#) are being addressed.

Recommendation:

The Corporate Governance Committee considers the report and comments as it considers necessary.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To update members in respect of the operation of the Councils Governance Boards (GB).

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Committee requested to receive an annual review of the Councils Governance Boards (GB). These are officer-led boards that aim to provide strategic guidance and leadership across the Councils delivery framework. There are currently four such boards; namely:

- Information Management.
- Programmes & Projects.
- Finance & Procurement.
- Safeguarding.

3. EFFECTIVENESS

- 3.1 To assess the effectiveness of the GB's each lead officer has completed a self-assessment and these are attached and the summary conclusions are shown in **Table 1** below.

Review of Effectiveness of Governance Boards by the Head of Resources		Table 1
Original Board	Conclusion on Effectiveness	Detailed Self-Assessment
Information Management	3	Appendix 1
Programme and Projects	4	Appendix 2
Finance and Procurement	4	Appendix 3
Safeguarding	4	Appendix 4
NB Ranking: 5, excellent; 4, good; 3, fair; 2, improvement required; 1, poor.		

- 3.2 The Head of Resources has 'independently' reviewed the self-assessments submitted by each GB lead and he has concluded that the:

- effectiveness assessments noted in **Table 1**, fairly represent the current position of the GB's.
- GB's are providing some robust challenge to the Council's processes and practices and therefore adding value to the overall governance process.

- 3.3 Members will recall that during early 2017 (see the [GB Effectiveness Review](#) report that was reported to Corporate Governance Committee in July 2017), there had been a fundamental review of the GB's that were in operation. Although, as noted in para 3.2, the Head of Resources considers that the current four GB's are effectively challenging the Council's process and practices they are not explicitly tackling the strategic risks identified in the [2017/18 Annual Governance Statement](#). The Head of Resources will ensure that this will be considered by the Senior Leadership Team and will report back to the Committee in early 2019.

4. LINK TO THE CORPORATE PLAN

4.1 The GB contribute to the overall governance of the Council and will assist the Council in achieving the:

- Strategic Priority: “Efficient and Effective Council”, and the
- Objective “Become more efficient in the way we deliver services providing value for money services”.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

6. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The GB framework is a proactive means by which the Council can ensure that key process and practices within the Council are being operated as expected and reflective of the changing environment that the Council operates within. All costs associated with the various Governance Boards will continue to be met from within current resources

7. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED

Appendices 1 to 4 - Self-Assessment for each of the Governance Boards.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Governance Board SharePoint Site

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