



Please ask for Charlotte Kearsey
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The Chair and Members of Cabinet

28 March 2022

Dear Councillor,

Please attend a meeting of the CABINET to be held on TUESDAY, 5 APRIL 2022 at 10.30 am in Committee Room 1, Town Hall, Chesterfield, the agenda for which is set out below.

AGENDA

Part 1(Public Information)

1. Declarations of Members' and Officers' Interests relating to items on the Agenda
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes (Pages 3 - 6)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 15 March, 2022.

4. Forward Plan

Please follow the link below to view the latest Forward Plan.

[Forward Plan](#)

Items Recommended to Cabinet via Cabinet Members

Chesterfield Borough Council, Town Hall, Rose Hill, Chesterfield S40 1LP

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Cabinet Member for Town Centres and Visitor Economy

5. Armed Forces Covenant (Pages 7 - 26)

Cabinet Member for Governance

6. Review of the Code of Corporate Governance and the 2021/22 Annual Governance Statement (Pages 27 - 64)
7. Exclusion of the Public

To move “That under Regulation 21(1)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.”

Part 2 (Non Public Information)

8. Absence of Member of the Council (Pages 65 - 66)

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Randy', written in a cursive style.

Local Government and Regulatory Law Manager and Monitoring Officer

CABINET

Tuesday, 15th March, 2022

Present:-

Councillor P Gilby (Chair)

Councillors Blank
Holmes
Mannion-Brunt

Councillors Sarvent
Serjeant

*Matters dealt with under the Delegation Scheme

102 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' AND OFFICERS' INTERESTS RELATING TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

No declarations of interest were received.

103 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor D Collins, J Innes, P Innes and Ludlow.

104 MINUTES

RESOLVED –

That the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 22nd February, 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

105 FORWARD PLAN

The Forward Plan for the four month period 1st April, 2022 to 31st July, 2022 was reported for information.

***RESOLVED –**

That the Forward Plan be noted.

106 DELEGATION REPORT

Decisions taken by Cabinet Members during February, 2022 were reported.

***RESOLVED –**

That the Delegation Report be noted.

107 COMMEMORATIONS POLICY 2022 - 2024

The Service Director – Corporate submitted a report seeking approval for the updated Chesterfield Borough Council Commemorations Policy for 2022-2024.

Phase 1 of the review considered the current position regarding commemorations. Phase 2 involved consultation with the public and key stakeholders and revealed an appetite to continue to celebrate the rich history of the Borough.

The policy would provide a single route and process for commemoration proposals to be submitted to the Council and would be reviewed again in 2024.

***RESOLVED –**

1. That the Chesterfield Borough Council Commemorations Policy for 2022-2024 be approved.
2. That the Leader be granted delegated authority to approve minor amendments to the Commemorations Policy in between formal review periods.
3. That the Service Director - Economic Growth and Derbyshire Building Control Partnership undertake a review of the street naming guidance to improve clarity around criteria and decision making.

108 MODERN SLAVERY ANNUAL STATEMENT 2022/23

The Service Director – Corporate submitted a report seeking approval for the council's Modern Slavery Statement for 2022/23.

Although the Statement was not a mandatory requirement for local authorities, Chesterfield Borough Council had voluntarily resolved to prepare such a Statement, recognising the impact that modern slavery had on vulnerable people and the community.

It was noted that the Government had plans to strengthen the legislation around modern slavery and the proactive work already undertaken by the council would ensure that it was well placed to comply with any new provisions.

***RESOLVED –**

That the Chesterfield Borough Council Modern Slavery Statement for 2022/23 be approved.

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For publication

Armed Forces Covenant – Chesterfield Borough Council Action Plan (TV000)

Meeting:	Cabinet
Date:	05.04.22
Cabinet portfolio:	Town Centre and Visitor Economy (Armed Forces Champion)
Directorate:	Corporate
For publication	

1.0 Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To report on progress made on the Armed Forces Covenant Action Plan for 2019 – 2023 and approve further actions for 2022/23.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That members note the progress against the Chesterfield Borough Council Armed Forces Action Plan.
- 2.2 That the updated Chesterfield Borough Council Armed Forces Action Plan is approved for delivery.

3.0 Reason for recommendations

- 3.1 To demonstrate and reaffirm our commitment and support to the armed forces community.

4.0 Report details

- 4.1 The original Derbyshire Armed Forces Covenant was signed in April 2012. Derbyshire authorities adopted a collaborative approach to build upon the national covenant developed by the Ministry of Defence, working with the Royal British Legion.
- 4.2 As part of our commitment to the 2012 Derbyshire Armed Forced

Covenant Chesterfield Borough Council delivered a range of improvements and initiatives to demonstrate our commitment and support for the armed forces community including:

- Changes to many of our policies and practices to maximise support including housing allocations, homelessness, benefits advice service and concessions on services
- Maintained our commitment to advice services including Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centre, Citizens Advice Bureau and Derbyshire Law Centre which also support the armed forces community
- Supported the Heroes Welcome scheme
- Enhanced our remembrance and recognition activities with a variety of ceremonies including freedom of the borough for local regiments, commemoration of Armed Forces Day, armistice day and remembrance Sunday commemorations and an extensive World War I 100 year commemoration programme

4.3 The national covenant was revised in 2019 by the Ministry of Defence, again, working with the Royal British Legion. The principles of the covenant remained the same:

- No member of the armed forces community should face disadvantage in the provision of public and commercial services compared to any other citizen
- In some circumstances special treatment may be appropriate especially for the injured or bereaved

These core principles should be taken into account when writing and implementing policies and should be integrated in services, support and engagement activity.

4.4 Derbyshire County Council and all Derbyshire Districts agreed to continue to work collaboratively to develop and commit to a new Derbyshire Armed Forces Covenant in July 2019. A Chesterfield Borough Council Armed Forces Covenant Action Plan to cover the period 2019 – 2023 was developed at the same time to support the overarching covenant activity.

4.5 The Chesterfield Borough Council Armed Forces Action Plan is attached at Appendix 1. During the first three years of the plan significant progress has been made including:

- Developing and signing the Derbyshire Armed Forces Covenant
- Nomination of an Armed Forces Champion
- Effective engagement with the Derbyshire Armed Forces Partnership
- Support the Department for Work and Pensions and Job Centre Plus to deliver the veterans hub (face to face in 2019/20 – virtual in 2020/21 – now back to face to face)
- Supporting CBC services and partner agencies to promote services, information, events etc. aimed at or of benefit to the armed forces community
- Working with Armed Forces Charities and organisations to develop an annual programme of events and activities to recognise and value the contribution of the armed forces community past and present. This includes Armistice Day, Remembrance Sunday, Armed Forces Day, commemoration of key dates (virtual and Covid-19 secure for 2020/21 with some face to face in 2021/22)
- support the Civic Cadet roles and encourage Armed Forces Cadet Units and other young people via schools, clubs and associations to take part in the annual programme of recognition events and activities (over 400 engaged in 2019/20 with virtual opportunities for 2020/21 and 250 engaged in 2021/22)
- Attain the Bronze Award in the Ministry of Defence's Employer Recognition Scheme in 2020 and Silver achieved in 2021
- Annual leave policy now includes up to 10 days paid leave days per calendar year to undertake reservist duties
- Concessions Policy across all service areas includes Armed Forces
- Improvements to key housing policies to respond to specific needs and circumstances of Armed Forces Community

4.6 Beyond 2023

Derbyshire County Council and Derbyshire districts have been working together on the covenant since 2012. During this time the partnership have recognised that as Derbyshire has very little overt military presence e.g. military bases the armed forces community is largely hidden across the County. We wanted to gain a better understanding of the composition of the armed forces community in Derbyshire and to explore the needs of the community including spouses, partners and children and identify any gaps in information and support.

4.7 The partnership developed a successful bid from the Government's Armed Forces Covenant funding and were awarded a research grant. Derby University were procured to undertake the research study. The study was concluded in April 2021 and the report available to the partnership in June 2021.

4.8 Key findings included:

Armed Forces Community members in Derbyshire

- An estimated 38,000 veterans live in Derbyshire (approx. 4% of the population)
- Estimated 114,000 armed forces community members if each veteran has at least two connected family members
- On average 210 armed forces personnel a year have resettled in Derbyshire after leaving the service
- Derbyshire is home to 450 currently serving armed forces members
- 440 serving personnel have a spouse / partner living in Derbyshire
- 705 service children were educated in Derbyshire schools in 2019/20

Employment

- 74% of working age respondents reported being in employment which is slightly less than the Derbyshire average at 77%
- 89% had made their employer aware of their armed forces history / connection
- 85% had not experienced disadvantage in employment due to their armed forces history / connection
- Some issues of concern were raised with some veterans considering that skills and experience gained in the forces were not always recognised in civilian life
- Spouses and partners had experienced challenges with frequent moves and childcare challenges due to in effect single parent status while their partner served in the forces
- Reservists were concerned about some employers being inflexible regarding leave for training etc.

Health and social care

- 53% of respondents had a long term disability or ill health and of those 51% said that this was potentially due to their armed forces history

- 37% reported that they had mental health needs connected to their armed forces history
- But 50% had not made their GP aware of their armed forces history
- 24% of respondents frequently or very frequently felt isolated or lonely

Accessing services

- The most frequent services used by respondents were GPs, opticians, dentist and hospital
- 17% used library services, 10% mental health services and 9% adult education
- 44% had received support from at least one armed forces charity
- 91% felt that they hadn't experienced any disadvantage in accessing services

4.9 This information has been used to adjust provision including Veterans Hub and communication activity and will be invaluable alongside the Census 2021 data regarding armed forces community in developing the next Armed Forces Covenant Action Plan 2023 – 2027. This is a key action for 2022/23.

4.10 Armed Forces Act 2021 implications

The Armed Forces Act 2021 received Royal Assent in December 2021. It further enshrines the Armed Forces Covenant into law to help prevent service personnel and veterans being disadvantaged when accessing public services. Clause 8 amends Part 16A of the Armed Forces Act 2006 to introduce a duty to have due regard to the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant. Chesterfield Borough Council and Derbyshire partners are already signed up voluntarily to these principles via the covenant signing.

4.11 The Act requires the Secretary of State for Defence to lay draft statutory guidance before Parliament, which will come into force at a date to be specified by the Secretary of State. The Ministry of Defence is developing the statutory guidance in consultation with colleagues from across central government, local government and the third sector. We understand that the Ministry of Defence intends to commence the due regard duty later in 2022 and that the final statutory guidance will be published ahead of that to give councils time to prepare for its implementation.

- 4.12 The new guidance will also be essential to developing the new action plan for 2023 – 2027.

5.0 Alternative options

- 5.1 The Armed Forces Act 2021 enshrines the Armed Forces Covenant in law. Derbyshire County Council, all Derbyshire Districts and Armed Forces organisations have voluntarily progressed the covenant since 2012 and significant progress has been made. No alternative options are available currently as we are awaiting the final guidance and will need to reflect this in future action plans.

6.0 Implications for consideration – Financial and value for money

- 6.1 Since 2012 our commitment to the armed forces community has been built into our core business. Where specific additional activity emerging from the covenant, action plan and partnership have a financial impact, external funding and alternative resourcing models have been sought. This has included applications to the national Armed Forces Covenant Fund.
- 6.2 There is no new Government funding attached to the Act. The Ministry of Defence have made a commitment to review potential new burdens costs for councils one year after the commencement of the duty. It is important that any new burdens costs that may arise from implementing the duty are kept under review and fully funded by government.

7.0 Implications for consideration – Legal

- 7.1 The Armed Forces Act 2021 received Royal Assent in 2021, we are currently awaiting statutory guidance, this will be key to shaping our new action plan.

8.0 Implications for consideration – Human resources

- 8.1 Since 2012 our commitment to the armed forces community has been built into our core business. No additional human resources have been identified at this stage but we will need to review this once the Armed Forces Act 2021 guidance is available.

9.0 Implications for consideration – Council plan

- 9.1 Delivery of the Armed Forces Covenant Action Plan is a key commitment within the Council Plan 2019 – 2023.

10.0 Implications for consideration – Climate change

- 10.1 The plan is considered to be neutral from a climate change perspective, however individual activities are assessed for climate change impact and opportunities to reduce negative impact and promote positive change.

11.0 Implications for consideration – Equality and diversity

- 11.1 Equality analysis of the Derbyshire Armed Forces Covenant and our action plan has been undertaken with no negative impacts for protected characteristics identified. Our armed forces community includes a diverse range of people so the pledges and actions emerging from the covenant make significant positive contributions to all protected groups.

12.0 Implications for consideration – Risk management

Description of the Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Mitigating Action	Impact	Likelihood
Additional burdens following the enactment of the Armed Forces Act 2021.	M	H	<p>Strong Derbyshire partnership approach since 2012 – voluntarily signing and progressing the armed forces covenant.</p> <p>Partnership consideration of statutory guidance when available.</p> <p>MOD have committed to review additional burdens after 1 year of the guidance being in place – assessment for new burdens funding.</p> <p>LGA is working with national government regarding local government engagement and challenges.</p>	M	M

Decision information

Key decision number	1092
Wards affected	All

Document information

Report author
Donna Reddish – Service Director Corporate
Background documents
These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when the report was prepared.
None
Appendices to the report
Appendix 1 – Armed Forces Action Plan

Armed Forces Covenant Action Plan 2019 – 2023

Action Plan themes are based on the outcomes identified in the Government's "Strategy for Our Veterans: Valued. Contributing. Supported" (Nov 2018). In our plan the term veterans has been replaced with armed forces community to aid inclusion.

(https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/755915/Strategy_for_our_Veterans_FI_NAL_08.11.18_WEB.pdf)

The plan will be updated on an annual basis and progress reported via the Derbyshire Armed Forces Covenant Partnership.

Cross cutting themes

Cross cutting theme 1: Collaboration between organisations					RAG rating
Improved collaboration between organisations offers the Armed Forces Community coherent support					
Action number	Action	Timescale	Member/ Officer lead	Progress	
1	Nominate new Armed Forces Covenant Champion	July 2019	Leader	Cllr Kate Sarvent confirmed as Armed Forces Champion.	✓
2	Provide member and/or officer representation and engagement at Derbyshire Covenant Partnership.	Ongoing	Armed Forces Champion / SD Corporate	Officer/ member representation agreed and actively engaged in partnership activity.	
3	Work with Derbyshire County Council, Derby City Council and Derbyshire Districts to establish an officer working group to progress covenant actions.	October 2019	SD Corporate	Group launched in October 2019 to support Derbyshire Armed Forces Covenant activity and delivery of individual authority action plans. Group continues to be well attended and provides great opportunities to collaborate and share	✓

				knowledge – this has been particularly valuable during the Covid-19 pandemic – for example developing Covid-19 secure remembrance events.	
4	Support the Department for Work and Pensions and Job Centre Plus to deliver the veterans hub. The veterans hub is open to all members of the armed forces including serving, retired, veterans, and reservists. The regular hub sessions focus on health wellbeing, re-employment, volunteering etc.	Ongoing	SD Corporate	<p>Venue provided at the town hall, website and social media promotion and officer support where appropriate.</p> <p>During Covid-19 pandemic Veteran Hub activity was moved to a digital and telephone service which Chesterfield BC helped to promote.</p> <p>The Veteran Hub has now returned to the Town Hall on a monthly basis to provide information and support across a range of matters from re-employment, volunteering, housing, health and well being, funding and representation from the forces welfare charities.</p>	
5	Develop new Armed Forces Covenant Action Plan 2023 - 2027	Mar 2023	SD Corporate	Drawing upon University of Derby research project, Census 2021 data, horizon scanning, partnership knowledge.	
Cross cutting theme 2: Coordination of the Armed Forces Community services The coordination of the Armed Forces Community provision delivers consistent aims and principles over time and throughout the UK, ensuring the Armed Forces Community, their families and the bereaved are treated fairly compared to the local population.					

6	Improve access to information for the armed forces community via the CBC website. This includes developing a dedicated Armed Forces web page.	June 2020 Revised - August 2021	Communications and Marketing	The Chesterfield Borough Council website has been updated to include details of the Armed Forces Covenant, support available and key signposting.	✓
7	Continue to support CBC services and partner agencies to promote services, information, events etc. aimed at or of benefit to the armed forces community.	Ongoing	Communications and Marketing	A range of partnership campaigns supported across our communication channels including Your Chesterfield, website, intranet, social media accounts and members bulletins.	
Cross cutting theme 3: Data on the Armed Forces Community Enhanced collection, use and analysis of data across the public, private and charitable sectors to build an evidence base to effectively identify and address the needs of the Armed Forces Community.					
8	Census 2021 includes key Armed Forces data. Encourage high completion rate within Chesterfield Borough.	Oct 20 – April 2021	Assistant Census Liaison Manager / Communications and Marketing	Actively engaging with Office of National Statistics to support maximisation of completion rates in Chesterfield Borough: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social media and web campaign • Information in Your Chesterfield • Pipeline of information to key local groups to cascade to communities • Promotion of alternative completion methods 	✓

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specific armed forces related content shared <p>Census completion targets achieved for Chesterfield Borough.</p>	
9	Support the Derbyshire Covenant Partnership project aiming to identify the size and needs of the Armed Forces Community within Derbyshire.	2021/22	SD Corporate – via Derbyshire Armed Forces Covenant Partnership.	<p>University of Derby were commissioned by the partnership to undertake the research. The final report was presented to the partnership in June 2021.</p> <p>All partners have been using the research to further adapt and enhance services. Briefings have been provided to key Chesterfield Borough Council services and this work alongside Census 2021 data will be used to develop the next covenant action plan.</p>	✓
10	Utilise the above Derbyshire Covenant Partnership project and Census findings to develop our action plan and the Derbyshire Armed Forces Covenant further.	2022/23	SD Corporate	Key Census 2021 data including for the first time data on armed forces community size will be published in spring 2022 for the whole local authority with ward level and lower super output area data being available towards the end of 2022 / early 2023.	

				This information alongside the research conducted for action 8 will be used to develop the next Armed Forces Action Plan.	
Cross cutting theme 4: Public perception and understanding					
The UK population value the Armed Forces Community and understand their diverse experiences and culture.					
11	Sign the revised Derbyshire Armed Forces Covenant.	March 2019	Leader	Signed March 2019. Website, social media and press coverage.	✓
Actions 1,4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 contribute to this cross-cutting theme.					
Cross cutting theme 5: Recognition of the Armed forces Community					
The Armed Forces Community feel that their service and experience is recognised and valued by society.					
12	Working with Armed Forces Charities and organisations to develop an annual programme of events and activities to recognise and value the contribution of the armed forces community past and present. This includes Armistice Day, Remembrance Sunday, Armed Forces Day, commemoration of key dates	Annually by April each year for the forthcoming year.	Senior Democratic and Scrutiny Officer	<p>Annual events programme developed in consultation with Armed Forces organisations.</p> <p>Covid-19 secure events for 2021/22 included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covid-19 secure 11th hour ceremony • Covid-19 secure Remembrance Sunday service and event • Assistance and advice to local ceremonies • Flag flying and social media campaign for Armed Forces Day 	✓

				In 2021/22 we were able to increase cadet, school, armed forces and support organisations engagement following some reduction in covid-19 restrictions. We hope to be back to full programmes for 2022/23.	
13	Continue to support the Civic Cadet roles and encourage Armed Forces Cadet Units and other young people via schools, clubs and associations to take part in the annual programme of recognition events and activities.	Ongoing	Senior Democratic and Scrutiny Officer.	In 2021 we were able to increase engagement with cadet units, schools and organisations to enable attendance at key events in a Covid-19 secure way. Approximately 200 young people took part in events in 2021 and we expect this to grow to around 450 in 2022.	
14	Honour decorated service personnel and the wider remembrance of the sacrifices made by local residents e.g. Legion d'Honneur, Victoria Cross etc. receptions.	Ongoing	Senior Democratic and Scrutiny Officer.	No ceremonies during 2021/22.	

Key themes

Key theme 1: Community and relationships					
The Armed Forces Community are able to build healthy relationships and integrate into their communities.					
Action number	Action	Timescale	Member/ Officer lead	Progress	

Actions across the plan contribute to this theme.					
Key theme 2: Employment, education and skills The Armed Forces Community enter appropriate employment and can continue to enhance their careers throughout their working lives.					
15	Attain the Bronze Award in the Ministry of Defence's Employer Recognition Scheme.	June 2019	SD Corporate	Applications completed and status awarded in June 2019.	✓
16	Amend annual leave policy to include up to 10 days paid leave days per calendar year to undertake reservist duties.	2019/20	HR and Support Services Manager	Leave policy amended and approved.	✓
17	Register as an employer with links to our recruitment portal on the Forces Families jobs website.	December 2019	SD Corporate	Registration completed.	✓
18	Work towards the Silver Award of the Ministry of Defence's Employer Recognition Scheme.	2021/22	SD Corporate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended MOD Silver Award webinar • Expression of interest completed for Silver Award in 2021/22 • Application form and evidence gathered 	✓

19	Attain the Silver Award in the Ministry of Defence's Employer Recognition Scheme.	2022/23	SD Corporate	We achieved the silver award ahead of plan following significant progress and a successful application. We were awarded the Silver award in autumn 2021.	✓
Key theme 3: Finance and debt The Armed Forces Community leave the Armed Forces with sufficient financial education, awareness and skills to be financially self-supporting and resilient.					
Actions 4, 5, 6, 7, 8,9 contribute to this theme.					
20	Signposting to armed forces specific advice and support including SSAFA (The Armed Forces Charity), The Royal British Legion, Chesterfield Armed Forces and Veterans Hub.	June 2019 – Revised August 2021.	Communications and Marketing	Chesterfield Borough Council website has been updated to provide more comprehensive support information along with sign posting to key agencies.	✓
Key theme 4: Health and wellbeing All the Armed Forces Community enjoy a state of positive physical and mental health and wellbeing, enabling them to contribute to wider aspects of society.					
21	Introduce concessions available at Queen's Park Sports Centre and the Healthy Living Centre, Staveley for active armed	2019/20	SD Leisure, Culture and Wellbeing	Agreed as part of the overall concessions policy development.	✓

	forces members and flexible terms for membership.			Bespoke flexible membership packages developed for armed services personnel who may be deployed.	
Key theme 5: Making a home in civilian society The Armed Forces Community have a secure place to live either through buying, renting or social housing.					
22	Implement the Home Options Policy (Choice based lettings scheme) developed in partnership by the Derbyshire and Staffordshire Moorlands Home Options Partnership. Includes various exclusions to local residency requirements and preferences for armed forces applicants	2019/20	SD Housing	Partnership policy and arrangements in place.	✓
Key theme 6: The Armed Forces Community and the law The Armed Forces Community leave the Armed Forces with the resilience and awareness to remain law-abiding civilians.					
Currently no actions identified for this theme, but this will be reviewed following the completion of the Derbyshire Armed Forces Covenant Partnership project to assess the size and needs of the local armed forces community.					

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For publication

Review of the Code of Corporate Governance and the Annual Governance Statement

Meeting:	Cabinet Standards and Audit Committee
Date:	5 April 2022 20 April 2022
Cabinet portfolio:	Cabinet Member for Governance
Directorate:	Finance

1.0 Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To Review compliance with the Code of Corporate Governance requirements during the year 2021/22 and to present the Annual Governance Statement.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Cabinet consider the following documents and refer any comments to the Standards and Audit Committee:
- a) the Annual Review of the Local Code of Corporate Governance for 2021/22 (Appendix 1)
 - b) the Annual Governance Statement 2021/22 (Appendix 2).
- 2.2 That the Standards and Audit Committee:
- a) consider the documents listed in 2.1 above, together with any comments from Cabinet
 - b) subject to any amendments that they consider appropriate, approve the Annual Governance Statement and
 - c) recommend that the Annual Governance Statement be signed by the Leader and Chief Executive.
- 2.3 That a review of the Code of Corporate Governance be undertaken in 12 months' time.

- 2.4 That progress on the significant issues and future challenges identified in the Annual Governance Statement is monitored by the Corporate Leadership Team.

3.0 Reasons for recommendations

- 3.1 To enable the Cabinet and the Standards and Audit Committee to monitor compliance with the Code of Corporate Governance.
- 3.2 To comply with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.
- 3.3 To support the maintenance of sound risk management, governance and control arrangements within the Council.

4.0 Report details

Background

- 4.1 As good practice and to promote sound governance arrangements local authorities are recommended to adopt and regularly review a Code of Corporate Governance. The Code of Corporate Governance details the system by which the Council controls and directs its functions and how it relates to its local community. The overall aim is to ensure that resources are directed in accordance with agreed policy and according to priorities, that there is sound and inclusive decision making and that there is clear accountability for the use of those resources in order to achieve desired outcomes for service users and communities.
- 4.2 The Council's Code of Corporate Governance reflects the latest CIPFA / SOLACE guidance "delivering good governance in Local Government Framework 2016 Edition".
- 4.3 The Annual Governance Statement builds on the annual review of the Code of Corporate Governance. In England, the preparation and publication of an Annual Governance Statement is necessary to meet the statutory requirement set out in the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015. The Regulation requires authorities to prepare an Annual Governance Statement in accordance with "proper practices" in relation to internal control. The CIPFA / SOLACE framework, 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (2016)', defines such "proper practices".

4.4 The Annual Governance Statement should be an open and honest self-assessment of the organisation's performance across all of its activities, with a clear statement of the actions being taken or required to address areas of concern. The 2016 CIPFA/SOLACE Framework sets out the following core principles of good Governance: -

- A) Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law
- B) Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement
- C) Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits
- D) Determining the interventions necessary to optimize the achievement of the intended outcomes
- E) Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it
- F) Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management
- G) Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit, to deliver effective accountability.

4.5 Local authorities are required to prepare an Annual Governance Statement in order to report publicly on the extent to which they comply with their own code of governance, which in turn is consistent with the good governance principles in the Framework.

Review of compliance with the Code of Corporate Governance requirements

4.6 The Review at Appendix 1 shows that there has been substantial compliance with the Code of Corporate Governance during the year 2021/22. Where discussions with CLT and the work of Internal Audit has identified issues, these have been addressed within the Annual Governance Statement.

The Annual Governance Statement

- 4.7 The review of compliance with the Code of Corporate Governance helps to identify evidence which is then used in the Annual Governance Statement.
- 4.8 The guidance issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) has also been used when producing the Annual Governance Statement. The Annual Governance Statement (Appendix 2) has been derived from a detailed review of the assurances by senior officers and from the work undertaken and risks identified by internal audit.
- 4.9 The Corporate Leadership Team and other senior officers have all been involved in the review.
- 4.10 The review indicates that many of the processes and procedures in place at Chesterfield Borough Council are compliant with good practice however there are some governance issues and future challenges that are detailed within the Annual Governance Statement.
- 4.11 The Annual Governance Statement includes the continuing impact of COVID 19 during 2021/22 on the Council's governance arrangements.
- 4.12 The Annual Governance Statement also confirms substantial compliance with the CIPFA Financial Management Code. Compliance with the code seeks to provide assurance that Council's have financial resilience and sustainability.
- 4.13 The Annual Governance Statement (Appendix 2) follows the layout of a pro forma statement recommended by the CIPFA guidance. The Statement should be signed by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive.

5.0 Alternative options

- 5.1 Not applicable.

6.0 Implications for consideration – Council Plan

- 6.1 This review helps to ensure that the council's resources and priorities are focused on achieving the objectives within the council plan.

7.0 Implications for consideration – Financial and value for money

- 7.1 Ensuring that governance processes, risk management and controls in place are strong and transparent helps to ensure that there is good financial management and that value for money is achieved.

8.0 Implications for consideration – Legal

- 8.1 The preparation and publication of an Annual Governance Statement is necessary to meet the statutory requirement set out in the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015.

9.0 Implications for consideration – Human resources

- 9.1 None

10.0 Implications for consideration – Risk management

- 10.1 The failure to operate a sound system of Corporate Governance would represent a significant risk to the Council. The review of the Code of Corporate Governance and the preparation of the Annual Governance Statement ensures that the identified issues and challenges can be addressed. Progress will be monitored by the Corporate Leadership Team and the Standards and Audit Committee.

11.0 Implications for consideration – community wellbeing

- 11.1 Whilst there are not considered to be any direct community and wellbeing impacts in relation to this report, sound corporate governance arrangements will support the achievement of the Council's objectives.

12.0 Implications for consideration – Economy and skills

- 12.1 Whilst there are not considered to be any direct economy and skills impacts in relation to this report, sound corporate governance arrangements will support the achievement of the Council's objectives.

13.0 Implications for consideration – Climate Change

- 13.1 There are no perceived climate change impacts as a result of the recommendations to approve the Annual Governance Statement and review of the Code of Corporate Governance.

14.0 Implications for consideration – Equality and diversity

- 14.1 Whilst there are not considered to be any direct equalities impacts in relation to this report, sound corporate governance arrangements will support the achievement of the Council's equalities objectives.

Decision information

Key decision number	210
Wards affected	All

Document information

Report author	
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Background documents	
Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 CIPFA/SOLACE publication – Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework 2016 Edition	
Appendices to the report	
Appendix 1	Annual Review of the Code of Corporate Governance
Appendix 2	Annual Governance Statement

Chesterfield Borough Council

Local Code of Corporate Governance – 2021/22 Review

CIPFA/SOLACE core principles of good Governance	In place at CBC
<p>Principle A. Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law</p> <p>Local government organisations are accountable not only for how much they spend, but also for how they use the resources under their stewardship. This includes accountability for outputs, both positive and negative, and for the outcomes they have achieved. In addition, they have an overarching responsibility to serve the public interest in adhering to the requirements of legislation and government policies. It is essential that, as a whole, they can demonstrate the appropriateness of all their actions and have mechanisms in place to encourage and enforce adherence to ethical values and to respect the rule of law.</p>	<p>There is a four year Council Plan (2019 – 2023) that includes a vision statement. A delivery plan is also approved by Council on an annual basis. The Council Plan is cascaded down through SLT, CLT, service managers meetings, managers weekly bulletins, team meetings and the aspire intranet.</p> <p>Decision making is set out in the Constitution. The Constitution is underpinned by legal references. The Constitution is reviewed and updated as necessary, with amendments approved by Standards and Audit committee/Full Council (as appropriate).</p> <p>Member and Officers Codes of Conduct are within the Constitution along with protocols on Member/Officer relations.</p> <p>Amongst others, the Council has the following policies/strategies/protocols in place which are on the Council's intranet: -</p> <p>Anti- harassment and bullying policy Anti- Fraud, Bribery and corruption policy (last Reviewed September 2021) Equality and diversity policy</p>

CIPFA/SOLACE core principles of good Governance	In place at CBC
	<p>Recruitment Policy Confidential Reporting (Whistleblowing) policy Procurement Strategy Partnership guidance/protocol. Legal Services Protocols Complaints procedures Staff competency framework</p> <p>Declarations of interest are expected from Members and Officers Declarations of Gifts and Hospitality are retained</p> <p>Member and Officer induction, training and refresher cover: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behavioural and ethical values • Standards • Fraud and corruption • Equality and Diversity <p>The Council is strongly working towards all staff having annual performance appraisals and mid- year reviews. An employee's commitment to the Council's values are assessed at performance development reviews</p> <p>There are 3 Scrutiny Committees: -</p> <p>1)Overview and Performance Scrutiny Forum</p>

CIPFA/SOLACE core principles of good Governance	In place at CBC
	<p>2)Enterprise and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee 3)Community, Customer and Organisational Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>An annual Scrutiny report goes to Full Council.</p> <p>There is also an Audit and Standards Committee. Each Committee has its own terms of reference. Committee minutes and reports are retained</p> <p>All jobs are required to have job descriptions and person specifications that must be reviewed each time a post becomes vacant. Employment contracts specify whether posts are politically restricted and the constraints placed on office holders.</p> <p>The Service Director - Finance is the nominated section 151 Officer and there is also a nominated Deputy. CIPFA'S statement on the role of the Chief Financial Officer is complied with.</p> <p>The Council has a Monitoring Officer and team to deal with legal breaches. The Monitoring Officer has oversight of governance at the Council and a Deputy Monitoring Officer (in whom vests the legal function in the absence of the Monitoring Officer).</p>

CIPFA/SOLACE core principles of good Governance	In place at CBC
<p>Principle B Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement</p> <p>Local government is run for the public good, organisations therefore should ensure openness in their activities. Clear, trusted channels of communication and consultation should be used to engage effectively with all groups of stakeholders, such as individual citizens and service users, as well as institutional stakeholders.</p>	<p>Communication means are: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual financial statements • Council Plan • The council Newsletter” Your Chesterfield” which includes Our Homes for Tenants and Leaseholders • The council website • Social media channels including video, photos and infographic content • An annual report to tenants is prepared and sent to the Housing Regulator (HCA), published on the website and summarised in the Our Homes publication which goes to all households in the Borough as part of the Your Chesterfield publication. • Housing have a Customer Engagement Strategy as required by the HCA and provide a variety of opportunities for tenants to be involved in and shape service delivery including a Tenant Challenge” Scrutiny” Panel. • FOI Publication Scheme • Council Tax information is on the website • There is a Community Engagement Group and a Communications and Engagements Strategy which includes an annual action plan. • Stakeholder groups identified for different consultation types e.g. community and voluntary sector, sport and leisure organisations, planning consultations, equality and diversity forum etc. • Bespoke communication consultation and research plans. • Housing’s Tenant Challenge Panel (Scrutiny equivalent) has a clear set of Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct for Members.

CIPFA/SOLACE core principles of good Governance	In place at CBC
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Derbyshire wide engagement group to share best practice and develop joint approaches where applicable. • Housing operates a variety of ways for tenants to be involved and give their views e.g. focus groups/ formal meetings/ informal drop in's/ use of a consultation bus in the community. <p>In terms of committee meetings: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An annual meeting timetable is published. • There is a template for Committee reports with standard headings and an online system in place for reviewing and signoff of reports via ModGov. • Officers reports are all retained with the Committee agendas and papers. • All committee reports are “open” agenda items unless there is a valid reason to exclude the public. • All decisions by Committees are minuted. <p>Decision making is set out in the Constitution. All Committees have adopted Terms of Reference and have scheduled meetings during the year.</p> <p>A partnership guidance/protocol has been developed. This includes arrangements for considering partnership arrangements including concerns and resource requests at the Finance and Performance Board.</p>

CIPFA/SOLACE core principles of good Governance	In place at CBC
	<p>Equality impact assessments take place</p> <p>A consultation page is being developed on the website which brings together all consultation activities including “you said, we did” reports on what actions were taken following consultation.</p> <p>Results of consultation exercises are published e.g. employee survey.</p> <p>Alternative Covid-19 secure consultation routes developed during the pandemic to enable key consultation activity to continue.</p> <p>Annual State of the Borough Report and briefing notes on emerging issues.</p>
<p>Principle C Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits</p> <p>The long-term nature and impact of many of local government’s responsibilities mean that it should define and plan outcomes and that these should be sustainable. Decisions should further the authority’s purpose, contribute to intended benefits and outcomes, and remain within the limits of authority and resources. Input from all groups of stakeholders, including citizens,</p>	<p>The Council Plan covers 4 years and defines the Council’s vision and priorities. This sets the framework for all service plans. Progress against the Council Plan is reviewed on an annual basis.</p> <p>Service Plans are renewed every year, are developed from the Council Plan and include performance targets. The Council is in the process of adopting an organisational development strategy that will further enhance these links.</p> <p>The Council Plan is aligned to the medium-term financial plan (2019 – 2023) and is refreshed each year based on the affordability of each of the priorities.</p> <p>The Council’s financial arrangements have been assessed against the</p>

CIPFA/SOLACE core principles of good Governance	In place at CBC
<p>service users, and institutional stakeholders, is vital to the success of this process and in balancing competing demands when determining priorities for the finite resources available.</p>	<p>CIPFA Financial Management Code and been found to be compliant.</p> <p>The performance framework includes quarterly challenge at the Finance and Performance Board and Overview and Performance Scrutiny. Annual performance report to Cabinet.</p> <p>The capital programme is approved by Members each year. Officers have to submit capital bids.</p> <p>There is a treasury management strategy that is reviewed and approved on an annual basis.</p> <p>HRA Business Plan Steering Group leads on the development of the HRA Business Plan, this comprises of tenants, officers and elected members (scrutiny is part of this group).</p> <p>State of the Borough Report.</p> <p>There is an Engagement Strategy</p> <p>Consultation is part of The Council's Equality Impact Assessments. There is an Equality and Diversity and Policy, Strategy and action plan.</p>
Principle D Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes	<p>The priorities in the Council plan are</p> <p>1) To make Chesterfield a thriving Borough</p>

CIPFA/SOLACE core principles of good Governance	In place at CBC
<p>Local government achieves its intended outcomes by providing a mixture of legal, regulatory, and practical interventions. Determining the right mix of these courses of action is a critically important strategic choice that local government has to make to ensure intended outcomes are achieved. They need robust decision-making mechanisms to ensure that their defined outcomes can be achieved in a way that provides the best trade-off between the various types of resource inputs while still enabling effective and efficient operations. Decisions made need to be reviewed continually to ensure that achievement of outcomes is optimised.</p>	<p>2) To improve the quality of life for local people 3) To provide value for money services</p> <p>An Organisational Development Strategy along with a Corporate Project Management Framework have been approved to aid in achieving the Council's priorities</p> <p>Service plans are built up to reflect these priorities.</p> <p>The Constitution defines the decision making mechanisms in place including Member/officer decision making protocols.</p> <p>Corporate Leadership Team managers are empowered to run their service flexibly to deliver the Council Plan priorities.</p> <p>Competency based Job Descriptions/Person Specifications for SLT/CLT increases flexibility and agility. This is being rolled out across the Council. One Council: One Team is a core CBC value which is considered during all Performance Development Reviews.</p> <p>All Committee reports contain various options and an officer recommendation. There is a schedule of meetings in place</p> <p>The Council has adopted a Communications and Engagement Strategy and develops annual action plans. Feedback is given on consultation via the CBC website, social media, public</p>

CIPFA/SOLACE core principles of good Governance	In place at CBC
<div data-bbox="100 579 134 715" data-label="Page-Header">Page 41</div>	<p>meetings, and Your Chesterfield/ Our Homes where appropriate</p> <p>Information is dispersed internally via:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managers weekly bulletin • Elected members e-bulletin • Aspire intranet for staff and members <p>The performance framework includes quarterly challenge at Finance and Performance Board and Overview and Performance Scrutiny. Annual update on progress against the Council Plan.</p> <p>There is a medium- term financial strategy in place and a savings plan both of which are regularly reviewed. Accountancy has regular budget meetings with service managers. Budgets are prepared in liaison with service managers taking in to account service plans and savings targets.</p> <p>There is a Finance and Performance Board that meets every 3 weeks.</p> <p>Budget guidance and protocols are issued to all service managers. There are well established budget preparation and review procedures. Budget challenge sessions take place.</p>
Principle E Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it	<p>The Council has adopted a competency framework to ensure that it encourages the behaviours and values expected.</p>

CIPFA/SOLACE core principles of good Governance	In place at CBC
<p>Local government needs appropriate structures and leadership, as well as people with the right skills, appropriate qualifications and mind-set, to operate efficiently and effectively and achieve their intended outcomes within the specified periods. A local government organisation must ensure that it has both the capacity to fulfil its own mandate and to make certain that there are policies in place to guarantee that its management has the operational capacity for the organisation as a whole. Because both individuals and the environment in which an authority operates will change over time, there will be a continuous need to develop its capacity as well as the skills and experience of the leadership of individual staff members. Leadership in local government entities is strengthened by the participation of people with many different types of backgrounds, reflecting the structure and diversity of communities.</p>	<p>The Council has a People Plan 2019 - 23 that all managers have been made aware of. Every post has a job description and person specification.</p> <p>A new Corporate Leadership Team Structure came into force from December 2020. Tier 4 of the Management Structure was reviewed and approved in 2021 with the aim of providing the right level of management capacity.</p> <p>There are Training programmes for managers and management modules on Aspire Learning Annual performance development reviews identify training requirements as does the Induction programme.</p> <p>IIP accreditation – awarded gold standard in February 2022.</p> <p>There has been a specific series of training provided for remote leadership and management during Covid-19.</p> <p>All members undergo induction training, and this is supplemented by specific training on e.g. planning, licensing, standards. Officers are encouraged to undergo relevant CPD to ensure their professional skills and knowledge maintained and updated. Specific training given for virtual meetings during Covid-19.</p> <p>The Member development group includes learning and development</p>

CIPFA/SOLACE core principles of good Governance	In place at CBC
<p>Page 43</p>	<p>programme.</p> <p>All staff have a learning and development plan</p> <p>There are appropriate human resources policies in place.</p> <p>Managing workplace Stress policy</p> <p>Capability Policy</p> <p>Managing attendance Policy</p> <p>Employee support programme – counselling and advice line</p> <p>Mental Health awareness training day for managers.</p> <p>Webinars for managers and staff to help mental health</p> <p>Training on various topics available on Aspire Learning.</p> <p>Referral to Occupational Health.</p> <p>Corporate Health & Safety Committee</p> <p>Additional risk assessments during COVID 19</p> <p>Equipment e.g. chairs, desks, monitors supplied to Officers homes whilst working from home due to COVID 19.</p>
<p>Principle F Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management</p> <p>Local government needs to ensure that the organisations and governance structures that it oversees have implemented, and can sustain, an effective performance</p>	<p>There is a risk management strategy in place that is reviewed and approved every year by the Standards and Audit Committee and Council.</p> <p>There is a strategic risk register and all services have an operational risk register that is reviewed by the Risk Management Group. The Risk Management Group meets on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>All committee reports include a risk section.</p>

CIPFA/SOLACE core principles of good Governance	In place at CBC
<p>management system that facilitates effective and efficient delivery of planned services. Risk management and internal control are important and integral parts of a performance management system and crucial to the achievement of outcomes. Risk should be considered and addressed as part of all decision-making activities.</p> <p>A strong system of financial management is essential for the implementation of policies and the achievement of intended outcomes, as it will enforce financial discipline, strategic allocation of resources, efficient service delivery, and accountability.</p> <p>It is also essential that a culture and structure for scrutiny is in place as a key part of accountable decision making, policy making and review. A positive working culture that accepts, promotes and encourages constructive challenge is critical to successful scrutiny and successful delivery. Importantly, this culture does not happen automatically, it requires repeated public commitment from those in authority.</p>	<p>Internal audit review risk management arrangements on a regular basis. The audit plan also takes in to account high risk areas and areas that are included in the corporate and service risk registers.</p> <p>The Head of the Internal Audit Consortium oversees the production of the Annual Governance Statement.</p> <p>The IAC is resourced and maintained at a satisfactory level.</p> <p>An external review of internal audit took place in May 2021 and concluded that the IA Consortium was compliant with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.</p> <p>The IAC Manager provides an annual audit opinion on the council's governance, risk and control processes.</p> <p>All areas have a service plan and performance measures form part of that.</p> <p>Progress against the objectives in the Council Plan and the associated Performance targets are monitored quarterly. Finance and Performance Board receives regular reports from each service to track delivery against financial targets.</p> <p>Scrutiny Roles and Responsibilities are defined in the Constitution. There are 3 scrutiny committees: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enterprise and Wellbeing, • Community, Customer and Organisational

CIPFA/SOLACE core principles of good Governance	In place at CBC
<p>Page 45</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview and Performance <p>Their role is to produce reports and recommendations which advise Cabinet, the Council or relevant Committees on policies, budget and service delivery.</p> <p>The Council is largely compliant with the CIPFA Financial Management Code There is a Medium Term Financial Plan in place and the Finance and Performance Board meet on a regular basis.</p> <p>Financial Standards and guidance are adhered to. The accounts are audited by Mazars.</p> <p>Financial Regulations and Standing orders are within the Constitution. Variances between budget and outturn are reported to Cabinet/Council on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>Managers receive monthly budget monitoring reports. The progress in achieving savings action plan is reported to SLT monthly and members as part of the quarterly budget monitoring reports to Cabinet.</p> <p>There is an anti-fraud Bribery and Corruption policy in place (revised September 2021).</p> <p>The Standards and Audit committee terms of reference are defined in the Constitution.</p> <p>The Committee consists of 7 members – 5 Councillors other than the Executive leader. No more than one of those 5 councillors may be a member</p>

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<div data-bbox="91 871 136 1015" data-label="Page-Header">Page 46</div>	<p>of the Cabinet. Two parish reps one from Staveley Town Council and one member of Brimington PC.</p> <p>Standards and Audit Committee members received relevant training after appointment in May 19 and new appointees receive relevant training. The Standards and Audit Committee undertake self -assessments against the CIPFA audit committees Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police 2018 edition on an annual basis. The Committee complies with best practice.</p> <p>There is a data disposal and retention schedule covering all areas of the Council.</p> <p>There is a data asset register and a designated Data Protection Officer.</p> <p>There are IT and Data Protection Policies in place.</p> <p>The Council has an information assurance risk register in place which details the mitigating actions and steps being taken to address issues identified.</p> <p>Data sharing agreements have been reviewed and updated where appropriate for GDPR. Processes are in place preventing new contracts being taken out without the appropriate data sharing agreement in place or approval to progress has been provided by the Council's SIRO.</p>
Principle G Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit to	<p>There is an approved Communications and Engagement strategy.</p> <p>The website has been developed.</p>

CIPFA/SOLACE core principles of good Governance	In place at CBC
<p>deliver effective accountability Accountability is about ensuring that those making decisions and delivering services are answerable for them. Effective accountability is concerned not only with reporting on actions completed, but also ensuring that stakeholders are able to understand and respond as the organisation plans and carries out its activities in a transparent manner. Both external and internal audit contribute to effective accountability.</p>	<p>The council newspaper “Your Chesterfield” which incorporates Our Homes for council tenants is sent out 4 times a year.</p> <p>Achievements against priorities are communicated to the public through the media, council website, Statement of Accounts and various social media channels.</p> <p>Social media is used to report on council meetings in live time.</p> <p>The style of committee reports is specified to ensure ease of reading and consistency.</p> <p>The annual financial statements for 2020/21 were signed off by Mazars by the required date which confirms that they comply with best practice.</p> <p>The Corporate Leadership Team are all involved in monitoring progress against the council plan which is reported to members.</p> <p>The annual governance statement is produced via a robust process that involves all of the Corporate Leadership Team. Each year an action plan is produced and monitored to address identified weaknesses.</p> <p>The Head of the Internal Audit Consortium is CIPFA qualified and complies with the statement on the role of the Head of Internal Audit.</p>

CIPFA/SOLACE core principles of good Governance	In place at CBC
<p>Page 48</p>	<p>An external review in May 2021 confirmed that internal audit is compliant with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards. An annual internal self-assessment of internal audit also confirms compliance with the Standards.</p> <p>The implementation of internal audit recommendations is monitored by CLT and the Standards and Audit Committee.</p> <p>The Council achieved Investors in people silver status in 2018 and is going for gold in 2021.</p> <p>Safeguarding – CBC is fully engaged with the Derbyshire Safeguarding boards including the district subgroup which challenge and share best practice amongst district authorities. There is mandatory safeguarding training for all officers.</p> <p>A peer challenge review took place in 2021 the results of which are awaited. Internal audit review the areas that are delivered through third parties.</p>

CHESTERFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2021/22

Scope of Responsibility

Chesterfield Borough Council is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively. The Council also has a duty under the Local Government Act 1999 to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

In discharging this overall responsibility, the Council is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs, facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, and which includes arrangements for the management of risk.

Chesterfield Borough Council has approved and adopted a code of corporate governance, which is consistent with the principles of the CIPFA / SOLACE Framework *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework 2016 edition*. This Statement explains how the Council has complied with the code and also meets the requirements of Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 which requires all relevant bodies to prepare an annual governance statement.

The purpose of the governance framework

The governance framework comprises the systems and processes, culture and values, by which the authority is directed and controlled and its activities through which it accounts to, engages with and leads its communities. It enables the authority to monitor the achievement of its strategic objectives and to consider whether those objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate services and value for money.

The system of internal control is a significant part of that framework and is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level. It cannot eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives and can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Council's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood and potential impact of those risks being realised and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

The governance framework has been in place at the Council for the year ended 31st March 2022 and up to the date of approval of the Statement of Accounts.

The governance framework

The key elements of the systems and processes that comprise the Council's governance framework are as follows: -

The Council's vision is "Putting our communities first". Chesterfield Borough Council identifies and communicates the authority's vision of its purpose and intended outcomes for citizens and service users via its Council Plan and Vision statement. The Council Plan consists of 3 priorities: -

To make Chesterfield a thriving borough
To improve the quality of life for local people
To provide value for money services

The Council's values reflect the way the council wants to achieve its vision, these are: -

Customer focused: delivering great customer service, meeting customer needs

Can do: striving to make a difference by adopting a positive attitude

One council, one team: proud of what we do, working together for the greater good

Honesty and respect: embracing diversity and treating everyone fairly

COVID-19

Coronavirus was categorised as a pandemic by the World Health Organisation on 11 March 2020 and this has continued to impact on the council for the whole of 2021/22. The Council has successfully managed to keep its highest priority areas operating.

A significant amount of work continues to progress across partnerships in Chesterfield and Derbyshire to understand the impacts of COVID-19 in more detail and to develop targeted activities to tackle these impacts.

During 2021/22 we continued to support a range of Covid-19 support schemes including:

- Final payments around business support grants,
- Administering the new Omicron business support schemes,
- Continued Covid-19 engagement, education and where necessary enforcement with businesses,
- Using the Winding Wheel Theatre as a vaccination centre.
- Using Car Parking sites for testing facilities,
- Regular Covid-19 hub updates via website and social media campaigns,

- Continuing to support a range of local resilience forum campaigns and requests for support,
- Progressing the community recovery approach and economic recovery plan to support overall borough recovery,
- Supporting a range of activity to encourage footfall back into our town centres, including: the Love Chesterfield and Christmas in Chesterfield marketing campaigns; a 'Little and Often' events programme supplemented by traditional larger events such as the 1940's Market, the Christmas Lights Switch on and Lantern Parade; and the Amazing Santa House experience which received over 500 visitors in December.
- Issuing an advice leaflet to staff, elected members and to Destination Chesterfield Champions to help signpost individuals and families to the right places for support at an early stage
- Over £100k of Community infrastructure levy has been utilised to support a number of schemes contributing to the community recovery approach including Cosy Hub IT infrastructure to support homework clubs and CV and application form submissions for jobseekers, improvements to community spaces to enable grassroot groups to develop and thrive, children's digital library services, improvements to parks and open spaces to enable free, accessible exercise and wellbeing activities.

Governance Arrangements

The Council Plan is cascaded down through, managers, meetings, service plans, team plans, budgets, the medium- term financial plan and employee performance development reviews. This flow ensures that resources are utilised for the achievement of the Council Plan and vision.

In April 2021 Council approved an organisational development (OD) strategy. Work is now currently underway to shape the OD Programme. Projects are focused around four strategic themes: ICT Improvement, Customer Services, People and Resources and New ways of working. Successful delivery of each project will move the Council closer to the achievement of the seven outcomes which have been defined in the OD Strategy relating to 1) People & Culture 2) Finance & Commercial 3) Access to Services: 4) Digital & Data Capability: Develop digital capability 5) Strategy, Policy & Governance 6) Programme & Performance Management 7) Engagement & Communication. The OD programme is a key driver for delivering organisational change and a more strategic approach to delivering financial sustainability.

The best use of resources and value for money challenge and assurance are obtained by scrutiny reports and reviews, reviewing service performance, benchmarking and monitoring budgets.

Chesterfield Borough Council has a formal Constitution in place that sets out how it operates, how decisions are made and the procedures which are followed to ensure that

these are efficient, transparent and accountable to local people. In addition, the Constitution sets out the roles and responsibilities of Members and Senior Managers.

The Cabinet is the part of the authority which is responsible for most day to day decisions. The Overview and Scrutiny committees support the work of the Council by scrutinising the decisions made. The Standards and Audit Committee are responsible for maintaining and promoting high standards of conduct and for considering the effectiveness of the Council's risk management arrangements and the control environment. The Committee also reviews reports from internal and external audit and other inspection agencies and seeks assurance that action has been taken where necessary.

Formal Codes of Conduct are in place for Members and Officers and are available on the intranet and form part of induction procedures. To further enhance these high standards the Council has in place a comments, complaints and compliments procedure, a Customer Services Charter, an Anti- Fraud, Bribery and Corruption policy and a Confidential Reporting (whistle blowing) Code.

In order to ensure compliance with relevant laws and regulations, internal policies and procedures Chesterfield Borough Council has a comprehensive induction package and provides training for staff and Members on a regular basis. The Constitution is underpinned by legal references. Training needs are identified through Member and employee performance and development reviews and continuous professional development is encouraged. There is an online learning tool that records all training and includes a comprehensive bank of training modules. Policies are readily available on the intranet to view.

The Chief Executive is the designated Head of Paid Service, with the statutory responsibility for the overall review of the Council's staffing and operation. The Chief Executive is monitored for performance in the delivery of political priorities which are in turn monitored and measured across all staff. The Council's Monitoring Officer attends Corporate Leadership team meetings and is suitably qualified.

Financial Management

The Chief Financial Officer is professionally qualified and experienced to undertake their roles and responsibilities and is supported by an experienced and appropriately qualified finance team. The Chief Financial Officer is a key member of the Corporate Leadership team and leads and directs a finance function that is fit for purpose. The Chief Financial Officer ensures compliance with S151 requirements. The Council's financial management arrangements conform to the governance requirements of the CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Local Government.

The Council has assessed its arrangements against the CIPFA Financial Management Code and is broadly compliant with these. Further work is being undertaken to embed

the principles within the Code. CIPFA's Financial Management Code (FM Code) was published in October 2019 and provides guidance for good and sustainable financial management in local authorities. The FM Code offers assurance that authorities are managing resources effectively, regardless of their current level of financial risk. The Code provides 6 principles against which to judge financial management (leadership, accountability, transparency, standards, assurance and sustainability). The principle of proportionality is embedded within the code and reflects a non-prescriptive approach.

Internal Audit is provided on a Consortium basis for Bolsover District Council, North East Derbyshire District Council and Chesterfield Borough Council. The Internal Audit function operates in accordance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) and conforms to the requirements of the CIPFA statement on the Role of the Head of Internal Audit 2019. The Head of the Internal Audit Consortium is a senior manager, professionally qualified and leads an appropriately resourced and experienced audit team. An external review of internal audit took place in May 2021 and this review confirmed that the Consortium is compliant with the PSIAS.

LGA Peer Review

In October 2021 the council took part in a Local Government Association Peer Challenge. This saw a team of experienced officers and an elected member spending time with us as 'critical friends' to provide challenge, share learning and identify any areas for improvement.

The team were highly impressed with Chesterfield Borough Council's aims, ambitions and committed and energetic workforce. The recommendations arising from the review will be taken on Board in the coming year.

Partnerships

The Council works with a number of partnerships to deliver its aims. Where the Council has entered into partnership arrangements it seeks to ensure that these promote the Council's vision of its purpose and intended outcomes for citizens and service users and that they are subject to appropriate governance and performance management arrangements.

The Council is a member of D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and a non constituent member of the Sheffield City Region mayoral combined authority. We are a key partner in the East Midlands HS2 partnership which comprises of a cross party group of County Borough, District and City Council leaders, two local enterprise partnerships and the East Midlands Chamber of Commerce, Midlands Connect and a range of other stakeholders.

In June 2017 Building Control left the Council to become part of a limited company (The Derbyshire Building Control Partnership). There are a series of legal agreements that support the new company including a shareholder agreement and a service level agreement. A separate Board has been set up to govern the new company. The company is consolidating its position in the market and has again this year significantly outperformed the budget forecast.

Economic Development

As part of its Growth Strategy the Council is supporting or delivering a number of growth and regeneration projects that are currently underway e.g. Chesterfield Waterside, Peak Resort, Northern Gateway, Staveley Corridor. A partnership arrangement has been established with DCC, to be led through a Joint Growth Board in order to provide an improved focus on the delivery of key projects within the Borough.

In November 2021 the government published its Integrated Rail Plan (IRP), which sets out investment including an announcement that the HS2 Eastern Leg will not be going ahead as proposed. Our plans for development around Chesterfield station are well advanced, as set out in the recently approved Station Masterplan we believe these can still go ahead despite the changes to the eastern leg of HS2. With regard to the Staveley area, the prospect of an HS2 depot has helped generate momentum for bringing regeneration and growth, in particular along the former Staveley Works corridor. We will need to work closely with government to understand more of the detail as the IRP provides only a high-level plan and we are very keen that the uncertainty created by the IRP is resolved as soon as possible so we can get our plans back on track.

£11 million in Levelling Up funding has been successfully procured to progress the £17.2 million Stephenson Memorial Hall Project to remodel and refurbish Chesterfield's 'striking' Stephenson Memorial Hall. Under the plans, the refurbished Hall would bring together under one roof an extended Pomegranate Theatre, a reconfigured and modern museum offering, alongside new gallery space, a café bar, education and community facilities.

A further £8.5m has been successfully bid for to further regenerate Chesterfield's historic town centre, with investment centred on four key public spaces – Corporation Street, Rykneld Square, Market Square and New Square – and how these are connected to one another. These spaces would be re-imagined for a range of flexible uses including markets, festivals, events, cultural celebrations, and community gatherings in a programme that will aim to complement the offering at Stephenson Memorial Hall and other key town centre assets such as the Church of St Mary and All Saints (Crooked Spire) and Market Hall Assembly Rooms.

The proposals are the next stage of the council's ambitious plans to transform Chesterfield town centre and make sure the borough's market traders, retailers and

other employers are strongly positioned to recover from the long-term economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Chesterfield Borough Council has secured a forward funding agreement with the developer, Chesterfield Waterside Ltd, as a key strategic investment opportunity for the town. Funding for the delivery of the high-quality office building was approved as part of Chesterfield Borough Council's ambitious growth strategy. The investment is designed to kick-start the town's economic recovery from Covid-19. The new office building, known as No.1 Waterside Place, will provide office accommodation of the highest specification. It represents the first step in delivering the commercial element of Chesterfield Waterside's Basin Square neighbourhood. Construction is progressing well with a focus now on internal works, completion of the external brick facades and exterior landscaping. Active marketing is now in place to attract tenants. Interest is growing and viewings are being undertaken on site, with the first tenants secured.

The Staveley Town Deal Board has secured £25.2 million from Town Deal funding. Chesterfield Borough is acting as the accountable body and lead partner. We have reported our monitoring and evaluation plan and summary to Government for the 11 projects within the Town Deal. Capital funding has been secured to assist projects to develop their business cases and an internal programme board has been established to provide check and challenge to the process. External appraisers have also been appointed to add further challenge to ensure robust business cases can be submitted by March 2022. The projects progress will be closely monitored and regular reporting to the relevant groups / committees will take place.

Investors in People

The Council has adopted a 'People Plan 2019 – 2023' which aims at developing great leaders, managing change well, developing capacity and skills, supporting employee wellbeing and providing recognition and reward.

In February 2022 the Council was successful in achieving the Gold Standards Investors in people award. The Gold standard is only achieved by 17% of organisations presenting for assessment, and reflects the culture of trust, collaboration, and strong values created within Chesterfield Borough Council.

This year Tier 4 of the Council's management structure has been restructured. Roles and responsibilities have been reviewed in order to ensure that there is the right capacity and skills at the top level to take the council forward. Further service reviews will take place in the coming year.

Risk Management

Chesterfield Borough Council has a risk management strategy, a risk management group and risk is considered as part of all Cabinet reports. The Strategic risk register and service

risk registers are regularly reviewed and appropriate training is provided. A complete refresh has been undertaken this year and the group is now much more focused on emerging risks and horizon scanning.

ICT

The ICT and digital improvement programme has continued to move at pace during the year. Cloud Migration is continuing as is phase 2 of the Office 365 rollout that adds new features, improving security and backup and adding data loss prevention tools. PSN certification has been achieved.

Work has started on developing the next iteration of the ICT Strategy for CBC, continuing from the 2018-2021 one. Some elements have been paused to enable focus on the cloud migration. Definition of programmes and workstreams to achieve the strategic vision, including costings are expected to be shaped in 2022. This will also include longer term strategic planning and a roadmap beyond 3 years.

Communication

Chesterfield Borough Council has a variety of means of communicating with all sections of the community and stakeholders including an internal and external Communication and Engagement Strategy, the Council's website, the publication of "Your Chesterfield" four times a year which includes "Our Homes" for tenants and leaseholders and an annual Community Engagement Programme.

Review of Effectiveness

The Council has responsibility for conducting, at least annually, a review of the effectiveness of its governance framework including the system of internal control. The review of effectiveness is informed by the work of Corporate Leadership Team within the authority who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the governance environment, the Internal Audit Consortium Manager's annual report, and also by comments made by the external auditors and other review agencies and inspectorates.

The processes that have been applied in maintaining and reviewing the effectiveness of the governance framework include:

- Internal audit reviews of the governance, risk and control arrangements in place in accordance with the agreed internal audit plan
- Monitoring Officer reviews and monitors the operation of the Council's Constitution
- The Chief Executive, Executive Directors and Corporate Leadership Team monitoring the risks and the associated controls assigned to them

- The Chief Financial Officer providing the Council and the leadership team, with financial reports and financial advice covering the whole range of Council activities
- Reviews by external agencies such as the Council's external auditor
- The Council's Standards and Audit Committee receives reports on the work of internal audit, including the annual report by the Head of the Internal Audit Consortium.
- An annual review of the Local Code of Corporate Governance is undertaken and reported to both the Standards and Audit Committee and the Council's Cabinet.
- The Cabinet receives and considers reports on the outcome of reviews by the external auditor and other review agencies.

It can be demonstrated that the Council's governance arrangements support the council's plan by the sheer volume of achievements. Although some targets continue to be affected by COVID-19, the majority are progressing at pace. A few of the Council's achievements during the year are: -

- 342 jobs and 70 apprenticeships have been secured via local labour clauses and over £17 million in contracts within the local supply chain,
- The Vision Derbyshire Business Start up programme has been formally launched. Chesterfield residents interested in starting a business can access one to one support from a business start up adviser and can access grant funding to support business start up costs,
- The My Chesterfield digital portal now has over 19,700 customers signed up with increasing rates weekly,
- CBC continues to drive forward proposals for a Construction Skills Hub and DRIVe (rail innovation and training Centre) as part of the Staveley Town Deal. Staveley Town Deal Board approved £467,000 for the Construction Skills Hub in Dec 21 – the Full Business Case for DRIVe is expected to be complete by February 22,
- The new Enterprise Centre is being constructed to BREAM excellent standard and the roll-out of EV charging points, alongside the development of active travel measures, are supporting the Council's climate change programme. The expected completion date is March 2022,
- The revised Rough Sleeper Strategy was approved by Cabinet in June 2021. The strategy includes 38 commitments around prevention, intervention and recovery. Learning from the pandemic and Community Recovery Approach have been incorporated with new areas of work. The official Rough Sleeper Count figures demonstrate a reduction in rough sleeper numbers during the span of the Council Plan, demonstrating a positive impact of our action and partnership approach for this critical issue,
- The Council's competency framework was launched to all staff with three training modules delivered to all managers

- In respect of Climate Change 21 of the 45 actions within the CCAP have been established within mainstream council delivery. A further 19 actions are on target to be completed to plan timescales. 5 actions are currently running behind schedule due to capacity issues within the relevant teams but are still expected to be delivered before the end of the plan
- We successfully secured £1.5 million in external funding to support owner occupiers and private sector landlords to improve the energy efficiency of their homes and also to help tackle fuel poverty. Since the scheme launched we have received over 150 enquiries. Improvements to three properties have been completed and a further 52 are being progressed.
- The £7.1 million modernisation programme of Council homes at Pullman Close, Mallard Court, Leander Court and Aston Court in Staveley is progressing as scheduled
- Memberships statistics for the leisure centres continue to improve to perform well with a net growth of 633 members from the beginning of the year (368 HLC and 265 QPSC).

Internal Audit Opinion 2021/22

The Head of the Internal Audit Consortium is responsible for the delivery of an annual audit opinion that can be used by the council to inform its governance system. The annual opinion concludes on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the organisation's framework of governance, risk management and control.

In my opinion reasonable assurance can be provided on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the council's framework for governance, risk management and control for the year ended 2021/22. Sufficient work has been completed and assurances ascertained to be able to provide an unlimited opinion on the systems of governance, risk management and control in place. This year 2 audits have been issued with limited assurance however managers have reacted promptly to improve the controls in place.

Assurance can never be absolute. In this context "reasonable assurance" means that arrangements are in place to manage key risks and to meet good governance principles, but there are some areas where improvements are required.

A Review of 2020/21 Governance Issues

As part of formulating the 2021/22 Annual Governance Statement a review of progress against the issues raised in 2020/21 has taken place. Whilst positive progress has been made, the impact of COVID-19 has delayed some actions and some of the improvements implemented still require embedding so these issues have been raised again in the 2021/22 Statement. These actions will be delivered through the 2022/23 municipal year.

Significant governance issues

Whilst there are many areas of the Governance Framework that are operating satisfactorily, the work of internal audit and discussions with the Corporate Leadership Team have identified that there are some areas where action can be taken to improve the governance arrangements in place. The areas identified below either present significant future challenges and/or require further targeted improvements.

No.	Issue Identified	Action to address
1.	<p>Financial Sustainability</p> <p>Many budget risks and uncertainties continue from previous years along with the increasing rise in inflation and further delay in fair funding changes.</p> <p>There are now very strong expectations that changes to local government funding will be implemented in 2023/24. These reforms have been delayed from 2019 due to Brexit and the pandemic. A consultation on potential reforms is expected in the spring of 2022, the scope of which is still unclear, and this was reflected in the one-year finance settlement. This means that funding levels over the medium term are difficult to project.</p> <p>The MTFP details further budget risks and sensitivities together with actions.</p>	<p>Further work will be undertaken to ensure a balanced and financially sustainable Medium Term Financial Plan.</p> <p>The principles within the CIPFA Financial Management Code will be further embedded</p> <p>Measures include the review of non-essential spending, maximising grant opportunities, appropriate charging to other funds and general efficiencies.</p> <p>The MTFP was reported to Council in February 2022, the first 2 years are balanced but there are still gaps to be closed in years 3 and 4. The Organisational Development (OD) programme will be utilised to generate savings to balance years 3 and 4.</p> <p>Preliminary analysis suggests that savings of £830,000 will be achievable by 2025/26. The OD Programme will be set out in a report to Cabinet in the spring.</p> <p>Active engagement, consultations and focus groups to understand the implications of Fair Funding.</p> <p>Reserves have been bolstered.</p> <p>The business rates reserve will be utilised to smooth the impact over the life of the MTFP and any underspend in 2021/22 will</p>

		be used to supplement the budget risk reserve.
2	<p>Asset Management</p> <p>The Council needs to improve the way in which it manages its assets: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of a new IT system • Development of a 10-year maintenance plan based on condition surveys and supported by the budget. • Disposal of assets that are no longer required 	<p>The Council has developed a 'draft' Asset Management Strategy, which received positive support from the LGA Peer Review team. The strategy and supporting plan will be presented to Committee during 2022/23 for approval, along with a long-term cost/benefit analysis and MTFP implications. There is also work in progress to review the Property Services arrangements to ensure appropriate resources are available to deliver and maintain the approach contained in the new Asset Management Strategy and action plan.</p> <p>The condition survey and maintenance plan is being progressed and will inform the asset management plan, disposal strategy and MTFP implications. Social housing condition surveys are undertaken on an ongoing basis and inform the development of the capital programme and 30 year Business Plan. The HRA Business Plan has been updated and will be shared formally in late 2022/23. The asset management system will be replaced as part of the ICT improvement programme.</p>
3	<p>Workforce Capacity and capability</p> <p>Ongoing budget challenges and service demands mean that the Council will need to continue to manage workforce capacity and capability.</p> <p>This year tier 4 of the staffing structure has been reviewed and</p>	<p>The people plan 2019 – 23 is being implemented and aims to develop great leaders, manage change well, develop capacity and skills, support employee wellbeing and promote recognition and reward.</p> <p>Staffing structures below tier 4 will be</p>

	<p>approved.</p> <p>Capacity issues remain at lower tiers and these are in the process of being addressed.</p> <p>In February 2022 the Council achieved the Gold standard award for Investors in People</p>	<p>reviewed.</p> <p>There will be a review of staff subject to red book terms and conditions.</p> <p>Vacancy control processes will continue to be followed ensuring that service demands can be met whilst managing budget.</p>
4	<p>Project and programme management / decision making / governance processes.</p> <p>As the Councils ambitions have developed and increasing numbers of projects have been started, governance arrangements to ensure effective project management have not been implemented consistently across the Council.</p> <p>In April 2021 Council adopted a Corporate Project Management Framework</p> <p>The use of the framework still needs to embed however the main benefits will be: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved standards and co-ordination of project planning, decision making and management • Increased strategic oversight, focus and prioritisation • Strategic alignment across projects & programmes • A single, joined up and consistent process • Support the 'One Council' approach to achieving delivery of the Council Plan • More collaborative use of resources to reduce costs • streamlined performance 	<p>The Corporate Project Management Framework is now live and work will be undertaken in the 2022/23 financial year to further embed the use of the Corporate Project Management Framework throughout the Council</p>

	<p>management approach to inform decision making and drive improvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity for new ideas to be evaluated and developed fairly, in line with consistent application of criteria and approach 	
5	<p>Procurement</p> <p>Major progress has been made in this area: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new in – house procurement team has been appointed • All relevant officers have completed training on the new procurement system. • The procurement system is fully operational • Contracts can be monitored on the system which ensures that regulations are complied with <p>The new systems and processes will take time to fully embed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work will continue to identify all contracts and to feed these into the work programme • The procurement team are updating the Contracts Register with historic but live contract data to ensure a final comprehensive corporate workplan is reached. • A new control to be introduced to ensure that all high spend is subject to approval by the procurement team <p>Progress is on-going.</p>
6	<p>Health and Safety</p> <p>Capacity remained an issue throughout 2021/22 to fully address health and safety issues however a new post was created and recently appointed to - Strategic Health, Safety and Risk Manager</p>	<p>The new Strategic Health, Safety and Risk Manager will be undertaking a review to ensure that there is a comprehensive corporate health and safety function in place.</p>
7	<p>COVID-19 / Recovery / impact on the community</p> <p>The Council has a detailed emergency plan and business</p>	<p>The Council will ensure that it plays a key role in helping the community to recover.</p>

	<p>continuity plan in place, which is regularly updated.</p> <p>The Council's Business Continuity Plan has been utilised to focus efforts on the highest prioritised areas.</p> <p>The Council has been successful in keeping key services running and looking after the community and its own staff.</p> <p>The challenge ahead is to aid economic recovery and to support the community in its recovery.</p>	<p>Cabinet have approved an Economic Recovery Strategy and a Community Recovery Approach. These plans will be delivered during the 2022/23 financial year.</p>
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We have been advised on the implications of the result of the review of the effectiveness of the governance framework by the Cabinet and the Standards and Audit Committee, and that the arrangements continue to be regarded as fit for purpose in accordance with the governance framework. The areas identified for improvement form part of the 2022/23 Annual Governance Statement action plan.

We propose over the coming year to take steps to address the above matters to further enhance our governance arrangements. We are satisfied that these steps will address the need for improvements that were identified in our review of effectiveness and will monitor their implementation and operation as part of our next annual review.

Signed:

H Bowen
Chief Executive

Councillor T Gilby
Leader of Chesterfield Borough
Council

Date:

On behalf of Chesterfield Borough

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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