

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,
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- 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
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- 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
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- 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