

Annual Governance Statement 2015/16

Milton Keynes: *'Where we think differently, create opportunity and believe in people'.*



Milton Keynes Council by numbers

Milton Keynes Council provides a wide range of services to over **260,000** residents in **106,000** dwellings, **13,000** registered businesses, and **2,000** community groups. Milton Keynes, a diverse town with **167** different languages being spoken, is currently bigger than Southampton and as one of the fastest growing places in the United Kingdom is expected to grow to be the size of Bristol within 15 years. These factors inform, and influence how the Council is governed.

The scale of council services is hard to imagine. Here are some of the things which the council has delivered over the past year:

- Collected **129,000** tonnes of waste and recycling.
- Spent **£10m** of a **£50m** programme investing in roads, redways and pavements, and repaired more than **20,000** potholes.
- Used **3000** tonnes of grit to keep roads safe and people moving.
- Found housing for **971** families and individuals.
- Helped more than **6,300** older and vulnerable adults.
- Looked after **13,000** children in our children's centres.
- Maintained **753** miles of roads and **1097** miles of redways and footpaths.
- Administered more than **£115m** in welfare benefit to 23,000 vulnerable people and those on low incomes.
- Brought over **3,253** new jobs into Milton Keynes



Milton Keynes Council has an ambitious agenda to ensure Milton Keynes remains a special place in which to live, learn, visit and do business.

Milton Keynes is one of the most exciting places within the UK with a vibrant economy, innovation in transport smart technology and huge potential for further growth.

Good governance ensures that an organisation is doing the right things, in the right way and for the right people. With huge reductions in our funding, this has never been more important.

There is a strong link between effective governance and effective service commissioning and delivery and in order to deliver the Council's ambition and support the drive for continuous improvement, strong governance arrangements need to be in place. We need to ensure we comply with relevant legislation and to give operational and political leaders the right insight and assurance that this is happening. Our suppliers, partners and taxpayers also need to know that we are doing things correctly in order to protect their investment and reputation.

We are satisfied that MKC's current governance approach and processes provide this assurance

Signed:



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Marland'.

Councillor Peter Marland
Leader of Milton Keynes Council



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carole Mills'.

Carole Mills
Chief Executive – Milton Keynes Council

What is Corporate Governance?

Corporate governance generally refers to the processes by which organisations are directed, controlled, led and held to account.

The Council's governance arrangements aim to ensure that it meets its objectives and responsibilities in a lawful, timely, open, inclusive and honest manner and that its public money and resources are safeguarded, properly accounted for and used economically, efficiently and effectively.

The governance framework comprises the systems, processes, cultures and values by which the Council is directed and controlled, and through which it accounts to, engages with and leads the local community. The framework brings together an underlying set of legal requirements, good practice and management processes.

How do we know our arrangements are working?

To monitor the effectiveness of the Council's corporate governance systems, assurances on the governance framework as shown in the diagram overleaf are provided to, and challenged by, Audit Committee or Scrutiny Panels as appropriate.

Each year we review the Council's corporate governance processes, systems and the assurances on the Governance Framework to create the Annual Governance Statement by undertaking a review of the Council's compliance with its Code of Corporate Governance¹, consulting with the Corporate Management Team, governance officers, and a member group representing each of the major parties, and also reflecting on the work of internal and external audit and other inspection bodies completed during the year. The issues identified during the review are highlighted in the Action Plan at the end of this statement.

This Annual Governance Statement builds upon those of previous years. It summarises the key governance framework which has been in place for the year ended 31 March 2016 and up to the date of approval of the Statement of Accounts and records any significant governance issues that need to be addressed over the coming year.

The Council is continually changing and seeking improvement it is important that the governance arrangements are robust and flexible enough to manage change effectively and positively support Council aims and objectives.

The Governance Framework cannot eliminate all risk and can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness

¹ The 2010 Code used is based upon the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework Delivering Good Governance in Local Government) guidance applicable throughout 2015/16. New guidance was issued in April 2016 and the MKC Code will be reviewed and revised to ensure compliance with the 2016 CIPFA / SOLACE Guidance.

Assurance Required Upon	Sources / Systems of Assurance	Assurance Documents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Delivery of Councils aims and objectives /Leadership Direction ● Services are delivered economically, efficiently and effectively ● Management of risk ● Effectiveness of internal controls ● Democratic engagement and public accountability ● Budget and financial management arrangements ● Roles and responsibilities of Councillors and Officers ● Standards of conduct and behaviour ● Compliance with laws and regulations, internal policies and procedures ● Action plans dealing with significant issues are approved, actioned and reported upon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Constitution & Policies, incl; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ statutory officers, ○ scheme of delegation, ○ financial management & procurement rules, ○ code conduct ○ whistleblowing ○ risk management ● Corporate Leadership Team ● Audit Committee ● Scrutiny function ● Council, Cabinet & Panels ● Independent external sources, including Peer reviews ● Procurement and Commissioning Committee ● Internal & External Audit ● Portfolio Office & MK Approach ● Performance management framework ● Integrated Assurance Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cabinet & Committee reports & decisions ● CLT reports & decisions ● Statement of accounts ● External audit reports ● Internal audit reports ● Local Government Ombudsman report ● Electoral Commission report ● Scrutiny reviews ● Office of Surveillance Commissioner report ● Annual Audit Committee and Scrutiny Committee reviews / reports ● PSIAS Internal Audit review ● Review of Compliance with Code of Corporate Governance via AGS ● Performance reviews & appraisals ● Management and councillor assurances ● Peer Review reports ● Medium Term Financial Plan ● Complaints system

The Council - How it works

From May 2015 elections Councillors are elected by thirds, with one seat in each of the 19 wards being up for election. Councillors elected from May 2015 serve a four year term and there will be no council elections in 2017.

All Councillors are democratically accountable to the residents of their Wards. The overriding duty of Councillors is to the whole community, but they have a special duty to their constituents, including those who did not vote for them. The consensus of the political parties in taking the city forward should be recognised.

The Council has 57 elected Councillors who meet together as the Council. At these meetings, councillors decide many of the Council's overall policies and set the budget and Council Tax each year.

At the Annual Council Business Meeting, the Leader appoints the Cabinet (the lead decision makers for the Council) and the Council appoints the Overview and Scrutiny Committees/Panels, and the Regulatory Committees, which include the Development Control Committee, the Licensing Committee and the Regulatory Committee. The Council also appoints Audit and Standards Committees. The Cabinet carries out the executive functions of the Authority, working within the policy and budgetary framework set by the Council.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the Council's various meetings, but on occasions the public may be excluded if a confidential or exempt information is to be discussed.

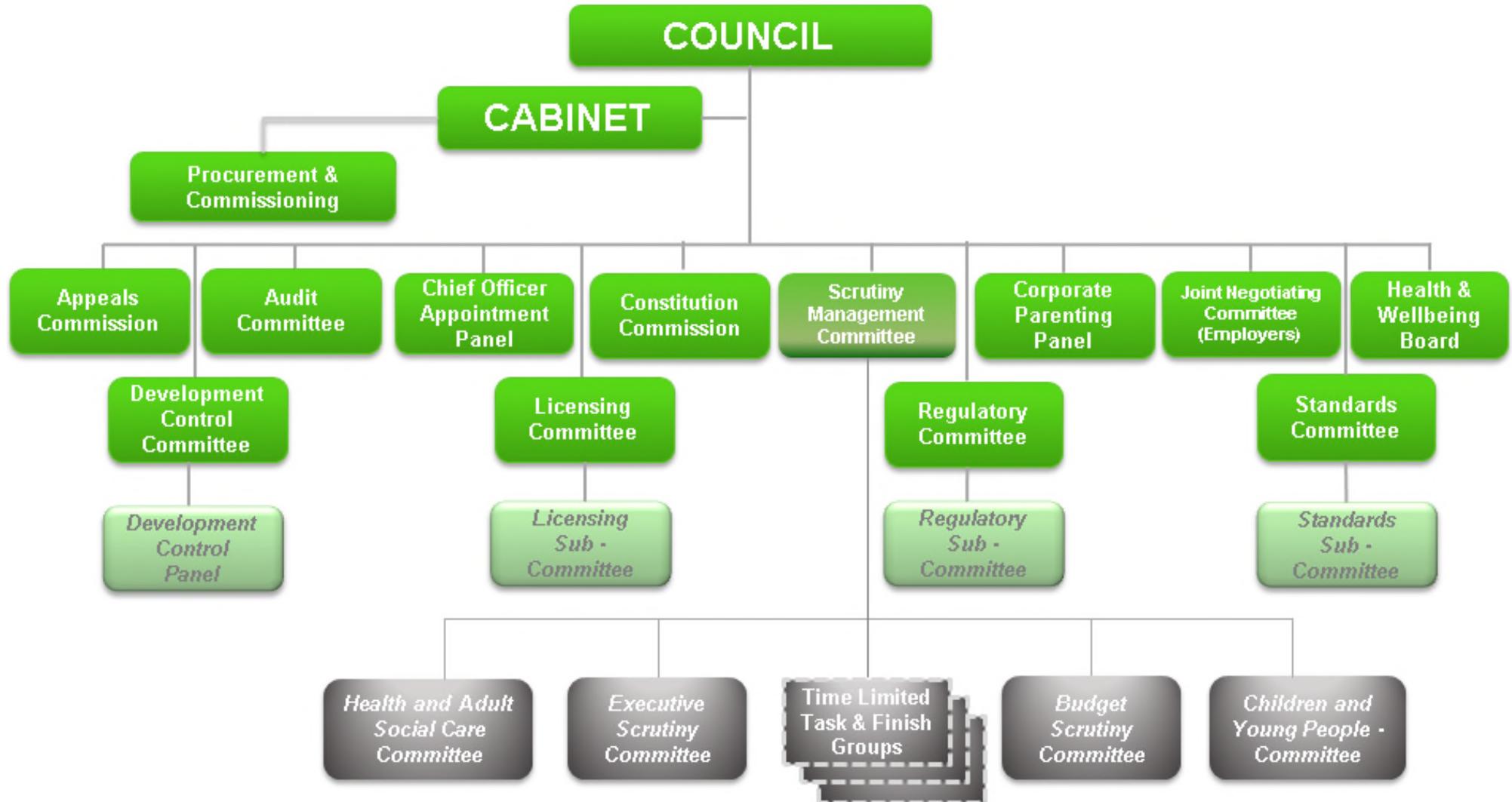
The Council's Constitution ([link to Constitution](#)) sets out how the Council operates, how decisions are made and the processes that are followed to ensure that the Council's decision making is efficient, transparent and accountable to local people. Some of the procedures contained within the Constitution are required by law and some are chosen by the Council.

The Constitution also sets out the role of key governance officers, including the statutory posts of 'Head of Paid Service' (The Chief Executive) , 'Section 151 Officer' (Corporate Director Resources) and 'Monitoring Officer (Interim Service Director Legal and Democratic Services)', and explains the role of these officers for ensuring that processes are in place to ensure that the Council meets its statutory obligations and also for the provision of advice to Councillors, officers and Committees on staff management, financial, legal and ethical governance issues.

Following the appointment of the Chief Executive in May 2014 the senior management structure was stable throughout 2015/16 with minimal changes at Service Director / Assistant Director positions. The Monitoring Officer position is being recruited to, however the role was filled via an experienced consultant throughout 2015/16.

The key governance officers have been involved in the preparation of this statement and are satisfied that the arrangements in place are working effectively and that no matters of significance have been omitted.

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE 2015/16



Scrutiny Committees

Scrutiny is a key part of the democratic process of the Council monitoring the policy decisions of the Cabinet and has a key role in advising on the development of Council policy. It also looks at broader issues affecting Milton Keynes.

There are five Select Committees covering the full range of council and community issues together with a range of Task and Finish Groups which look at a single issue in much greater depth than is possible at Select Committees. All Councillors, other than Cabinet Members, are able to be involved in scrutiny work.

Scrutiny gives Councillors the time and space to think, to review issues in greater detail and to shine a light on processes and outcomes with the aim of proposing better ways of doing things for the benefit of the residents of Milton Keynes.

The Committees and Task and Finish Groups call expert witnesses from inside the Council and the wider community and in some cases from further afield. This ensures that recommendations from the Committees are better informed, being based on a wide range of evidence.

Regulatory Committees

The Council has a Development Control Committee and a Development Control Panel, which discharges the Council's development control functions. The Council also appoints a Regulatory Committee and Sub-Committee discharging its regulatory functions, such as taxi licensing, and a Licensing Committee and Sub-Committee, discharging the Council's functions under the 2003 Licensing Act.

Procurement & Commissioning Committee

Exercises the functions of the Cabinet in respect of all contracts for procurement of works, goods or services between the value of £100k and £20m including contract extensions, benefits realisation analysis, contract waivers etc.

The Audit Committee

Undertakes the core functions, and complies with best practice as detailed in CIPFA's 2013 "Audit Committees – Practical Guidance for Local Authorities and Police" and has oversight of the delivery (as the 'Board') of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS).

The Committee takes a positive and proactive approach to governance and reviews progress on the AGS Action Plan, Internal Audit Annual Audit Plan, Anti-Fraud arrangements including whistleblowing, Risk Management. The Committee approves the Council's annual accounts including the AGS. The Chair of the Audit Committee provides an annual report (*link to [Chair's Annual Report](#)*) to Full Council on the work of the Committee.

A self-assessment review undertaken in April 2015 using CIPFA's checklist for assessing conformance with the PSIAS has confirmed that the Audit Committee complies with the requirements set out in the standard. An external review (in compliance with PSIAS) is scheduled for 2016.

The Housing and Community Committee

Created with effect from 1st April 2016 with responsibilities for those services.

The Corporate Parenting Panel

Acts as the Corporate Parent to all the children and young people who are in the care of Milton Keynes Council and ensures that the Council's pledge to children in care is delivered. The Corporate Parenting Panel is also responsible for raising awareness of the needs of children in care across the Council and its partners.

Other Stakeholder Involvement

The Council appoints representatives to various joint and external bodies where the Council either has formal responsibilities and/or the Council's wider community role is best delivered via such partnerships. These include Fire Authority, Police & Crime Commissioners Office, Health & Wellbeing Board with NHS partners, SEMLEP² arrangements with Luton, Aylesbury Vale, Kettering, Northampton and others etc.

Council Owned Companies

The Council has two Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs)

Milton Keynes Development Partnership (MKDP)

In December 2012 MKDP was set up, with approximately £32m of assets purchased from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) transferred to the LLP in January 2013. The purpose of the MKDP is to deliver optimum economic value to the citizens of Milton Keynes in line with the Council's Corporate Plan and Economic Development Strategy.

The governance arrangements for MKDP are set out in the Member's Agreement. These include the requirement for a Board made up of councillors and independent members, to which the Chief Executive of the MKDP is responsible. The Chief Executive and the Board are responsible for the general management of the MKDP.

Milton Keynes Service Partnership (MKSP)

In January 2013 MKSP was established to provide services to MKC and other public and private sector customers. MKSP employed approximately 800 staff. In 2015/16 the Council resolved to close MKSP and return services back into the Council.

Staff transferred to MKC on 1st Dec 2015 and subsequently the Council resolved to enter the LGSS partnership as an equal partner with Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire County Councils. Finance, IT, Audit, HR, Procurement and Revs and Bens services transferred to LGSS management with effect from 1st April 2016. Staff are employed by MKC with services managed through LGSS Partner structures.

MKSP will produce accounts for 2015/16 and then follow Companies Act requirements to close during 2016.

The Council also operated a 3rd company (Connect MK Ltd) that was dormant during 2015/16 and formally dissolved on 26th April 2016 with all (albeit minimal) value transferred to MKC.

² **Local Enterprise Partnerships** (LEPs) are voluntary partnerships between local authorities and businesses set up in 2011 by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to help determine local economic priorities and lead economic growth and job creation within the local area. MKC is a partner with South East Midlands LEP (SEMLEP).

The Corporate Plan

The [Corporate Plan 2012-16](#) (*add link*) sets out the vision for Milton Keynes and captures the type of place Milton Keynes aspires to be for all those who live, work, learn and visit there. It was agreed by Council in January 2012, and includes outcomes and priorities to provide a high level framework for the Council. The plan brings together the high level content of existing major strategies and where relevant draws on recent local assessments and consultations to identify future priorities.

A refreshed version of the Corporate Plan was received by Cabinet in December 2013 and subsequently approved by Council in January 2014. A new Corporate Plan is now developed but for the period 2015/16 the Corporate Plan 2012-16 was applicable.

Milton Keynes Vision is:

- To ensure Milton Keynes is the premier ‘can do’ place of the 21st century. The city, together with the rural parts of our Borough, will continue to be a wonderful place to live, work, learn, shop and relax.
- To secure sustainable housing and employment growth that is advantageous for Milton Keynes subject to the timely provision of infrastructure and proactive regeneration to ensure no areas are left behind and that a two-speed city does not result.
- That people and firms will want to move here and stay here, and visitors will want to come here and come back often. Milton Keynes will have a compelling “offer” that includes rising standards of living and a safe and good quality of life for all.
- To create homes and neighbourhoods in new areas or through regeneration that help make our compelling “offer” a reality.
- That our residents have access to all the services they need and have the support to access opportunities and enjoy a healthy and good quality of life. Above all we must ensure that Milton Keynes offers job and career opportunities for all through an enterprising and thriving economy.

The Corporate Plan details some corporate themes:

- World Class MK
- Living in MK
- Working in MK
- Visiting MK
- Cleaner, Greener, Safer, Healthier MK

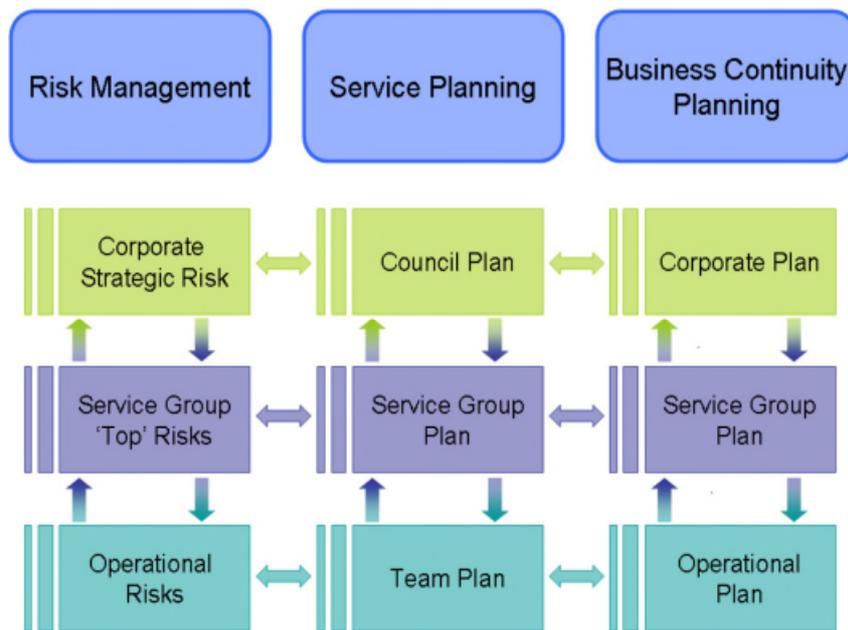
The Corporate Plan also highlighted the need to embrace:

- **Agile Council:** Delivering continuous improvement, ongoing transformation and efficiencies
- **Equality and Diversity:** Improve the way we engage, think, plan and act to deliver equality and accessibility for everyone, every day

Managing Key Risks

All Councillors and Managers are responsible for ensuring that risks are considered in the decisions they take. The Council has a written risk management strategy that is reviewed every two years.

The Council believes that managing current and future risk, both opportunity and threat, is increasingly vital to the business of local government. It is therefore the policy of the Council to adopt a proactive approach to the management of all risks that impact on its strategies, operations and the achievement of its objectives. The management of risks is closely associated with the Council's objectives.



The key elements to support this process are set out below:

- Councillors
 - Cabinet ensures decisions have been adequately reviewed for risks
 - Audit Committee ensures a robust Risk Management and Business Continuity process is in place throughout the Council.
- CLT, review the Council's Corporate Strategic Risks every quarter.

Risk
Medium Term Financial Challenge
Organisational Capacity
Planning for Cohesive Growth
Protecting and Caring for Vulnerable People

- Directors:
 - Ensure they are conversant with the risks above the agreed Risk Tolerance Threshold at service, team and project level, taking action on any risks which require attention
 - Identify the top risks for each Service Group including any risks requiring escalation to CLT.
 - Ensure the above considers Business Continuity arrangements.
- Risk Owners review their service and project risks in the Council's corporate risk management system (GRACE) to an agreed quarterly timetable.

Managing the Risk of Fraud

The Council's Corporate Anti-Fraud responsibilities are delivered through the Internal Audit service. Since the introduction on Universal Credit the investigation of benefit fraud has transferred to the DWP (with those relevant resources). The Council maintains a pro-active programme of counter fraud and corruption work which is risk based and proportionate, and which aims to create a culture of zero tolerance in accordance with the approved policy.

During 2015/16 pro-active work included:

- Housing tenancy
- Transport related , eg Blue Badges, Parking Permits etc
- Council Tax

The key issues/challenges are constantly reviewed and currently include:

- Social Housing Fraud
- Identity Fraud
- NNDR and Council Tax evasion/avoidance
- Ransomware / Denial of Service attacks
- General upward trend/increased volume of fraud in all areas

To act as a deterrent, prosecutions are publicised a 24/7 fraud 'hot-line' (including web-form) is maintained for anyone to raise concerns about possible fraud.

A robust [whistleblowing policy](#) (*link to [Policy](#)*) allows anyone to have confidence they can raise concerns without fear. The Council is committed to the highest standards of conduct regarding whistleblowing referrals and has signed up to the 'First 100' scheme operated by the leading charity Public Concern at Work. The duty to protect the identity of whistleblowers sometimes creates a tension with publicity and this is managed through the Audit Committee to provide appropriate transparency.

A report detailing both the activity and performance of the fraud team and the general nature of the whistleblowing allegations received is presented to the Audit Committee each year within the Annual Internal Audit Report.

None of the investigations undertaken in 2015/16 had/or is likely to have a material impact on the Council's financial standing

Chief Financial Officer

The Corporate Director Resources is the Council's appointed Chief Financial Officer. This is a statutory post, responsible for delivering and overseeing the financial management of the council. The Chief Financial Officer is a member of the Corporate Management Team and is responsible, in conjunction with the Service Director Finance & Resources, for managing and leading the finance service. . The Finance Service was commissioned from the Milton Keynes Service Partnership until the transfer of staff on 1st December 2015, when the service became directly managed by the Council. The role of Chief Financial Officer conforms with the good practice requirements within the CIPFA statement on the Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Local Government.

The Chief Financial Officer has been involved in reviewing corporate governance and in preparing this corporate governance statement. He is satisfied with the arrangements currently in place for managing finance and procurement processes.

The Cabinet Commissioning and Procurement Committee continues to support a more robust approach to procurement and ensures transparency and robustness in decision making. There has been a single successful procurement challenge during 2015/16, which resulted in the Council conducting a review of the decision and circumstances, including an external peer review process. The lessons learnt from the challenge have been reported to the Audit Committee and have been shared with other services. There will be an action plan developed with the appropriate Cabinet member to address the recommendations from the Procurement Peer Review.

There have been improvements to both the timeliness of payment to suppliers and the debt collection processes. Further changes will take place as part of the implementation of a new Integrated Finance and HR system which is being progressed through the new shared service partnership with LGSS. The Council has also created a Corporate Debt Collection Team, which has been improving processes and addressing historic debt issues.

Overall the control framework is operating effectively and no matters of significance have been omitted from this statement.

Managing Finances

There is a good system of budgetary control in place, which is enforced by the Corporate Management Team and Directors Forum, supported by training courses for budget and project managers. Capital projects are subject to early Review Points at the Capital Programme Review Panel which ensures projects are fully resourced and planned before spending can commence. This process, together with the monitoring arrangements put in place at Corporate and Service Group level, has ensured that the majority of the capital programme has been delivered on budget.

Overall the council has a strong track record of delivering savings proposals. The majority of the savings proposals included in the 2015/16 budget have been delivered and managers continue to implement the necessary changes to ensure the greater demand pressures coming through the system than was anticipated at the time of the budget, and therefore the majority of the Council's demand-led reserves have had to be utilised. These pressures have been reflected in the 2016/17 budget build.

Internal Audit

The Council receives substantial assurance from Internal Audit work who (through an agreed programme of testing) reviews the adequacy of the controls and governance that operate throughout all areas of the Council.

The Internal Audit Service has been managed and delivered in accordance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) that were introduced in April 2013, E.g. the Audit Committee approved the Internal Audit Charter and Strategy as required by PSIAS. The Charter sets out the internal audit role, its responsibilities and clarifies its independence.

A self-assessment of Internal Audit was undertaken for IA standards confirmed that the Internal Audit Service complies with PSIAS 2013 and that there are no issues of 'non-conformance' that need to be included in this statement.

The governance arrangements set out in the CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Head of Internal Audit have also been reviewed and no areas of non-compliance have been identified.

In November 2015 the Internal Audit service was restructured and the Assistant Director Audit & Risk is now the 'Head of Audit' / 'Chief Audit Executive' as defined within best practice. With effect from 1st April 2016 Internal Audit became part of the wider LGSS Internal Audit service, led by the MKC AD Audit & Risk.

One of the key assurance statements the Council receives is the annual report and opinion of the Head of Internal Audit (link to [report](#)). In respect of the 12 month period ending 31 March 2016, the opinion expressed was that the:

“Satisfactory assurance can be provided on the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's control environment operating for the year ended March 2016.”

External Audit & Inspections

Ernst and Young provide the external audit service to Milton Keynes Council.

The auditor issued an unqualified opinion in relation to the Council's 2014/15 statutory financial statements which include the single entity accounts for the Council and the group accounts incorporating MKSP and MKDP. An unqualified conclusion was also issued in relation to the Council's arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources (the value for money conclusion).

Feedback from the work undertaken to date has not highlighted any issues which would lead to a different opinion on either the 2015/16 Statement of Accounts or Value for Money arrangements

During 2015/16 the Care Quality Commission (CQC) carried out 8 inspections on MKC registered services. Of these 7 met the required standards (received a 'Good' overall rating). However, one service, Orchard House, did not meet the required standards at the time and required improvement (received a 'Requires Improvement' overall rating). CQC carried out the inspection in February 2015 and in August 2015 a re-inspection was completed that confirmed that the improvements made were effective and the service now fully met the required regulations.

18 schools were inspected by Ofsted.

- 4 were rated Outstanding (a total 28 schools are now Outstanding)
 - 1 improved from Requires Improvement (RI)
 - 3 improved from Good
- 11 were rated Good (a total 68 are now Good)
 - 4 remained at Good
 - 6 improved from RI
 - 1 was previously Outstanding
- 3 were rated RI (a total of 14 are now RI)
 - 1 remained at RI
 - 2 were previously Good
- 0 were rated Inadequate (0 are Inadequate)

Therefore during the year 56% of schools inspected improved, 22% remained the same and 22% were previously rated better. Across Milton Keynes the total number of schools that required improvement has decreased from 29% to 13% of all MKC run schools since 2009/10; this is below the national average.

Two Children's homes were also inspected by Ofsted and both met the required standards.

No Children's Centres inspections were carried out.

Significant Governance issues

The progress made on dealing with the issues identified in the 2014/15 Action Plan is shown below:

- The Council's Code of Corporate Governance has not been updated since 2010.

Revised guidance for a new code has only recently been published and will become an action in 2016/17 **as shown in the 2015/16 Action Plan below.**
- Increased reliance on a wide range of Partners to work with the Council to deliver key services e.g. health.

This has been replaced with 'business as usual' risk management within the risk management processes across each service involved in partnerships.
- An increasing number of core services are being delivered through large and complex contracts.

Assurance for commissioning and contract management remains a priority and is **reflected in the 2015/16 Action Plan below**
- There is a need to demonstrate that proposed benefits are achieved from major programmes and projects.

Progress made in this area via the Portfolio Office and delivered through Gateway reviews, benefits realisation reviews and IA audit programme. Governance now considered improved and risk based proportionate.

- The Council continues to face a very challenging financial outlook with savings of £21.2m to be delivered in 2015/16 and a further £69.8m to be delivered up to 2019/20 of which £13.7m had been identified.
The delivery of the 2016/17 budget will continue to be monitored closely and reported to Councillors regularly. The need to deliver budgets has been reinforced by the issue of accountability letters to all Budget Managers, Heads of Service and Directors. Governance in this area considered to be strong.
- The Governance and operation of MKSP has been subject to an external review which identified a number of shortcomings.
MKSP now being closed.
- The Risk Management Process needs strengthening and embedding through the organisation
The RM process is considered to be robust and should move to 'business as usual' within every service as part of performance management processes.
- The Performance Management process is being reinforced to ensure CLT is fully sighted on organisational health and performance.
The Performance management process is considered to be sufficiently robust and has moved to business as usual within CLT and Scrutiny routine work programmes.

While generally satisfied with the effectiveness of corporate governance arrangements and the internal control environment, as part of continuing efforts to improve governance arrangements the issues highlighted in the following table have been identified for action. The action plan arising from the issues will be monitored throughout the forthcoming year.

The only 'new' issues for the 2015/16 action plan are considered to be:

- (1) Confirmation of the appointment of a permanent Monitoring Officer
- (2) Embedding of the LGSS Partnership governance arrangements
- (3) Governance issues relating to the devolution and shared services initiatives whose importance increases across the public sector with financial pressures, i.e. working with other bodies to continue to deliver priority services within a period of constrained finances.

Annual Governance Statement Action Plan 2015/16

	Issue	Action	Outcome	Lead Officer	Completion Date
1	The Council's Code of Corporate Governance has not been updated since 2010.	A review of the Council's Code of Corporate Governance will be undertaken now the new code has been published in April 2016.	A revised Code of Corporate Governance which is complied with.	CLT/ Corporate Director Resources	30/9/16
2	An increasing number of core services are being delivered though large and complex contracts.	A register of key contracts will be maintained and contract management reviewed via gateway and IA reviews.	Reviews that provide positive assurance re: effective contract management	CLT/ Portfolio Office	30/9/16
3	Monitoring Officer role filled with Interim	Permanent appointment to this key post.	Suitably qualified person appointed	Appointment Panel	30/9/16
4	New LGSS arrangements since 1 st April	Assurance that LGSS partnership / governance arrangements are operational and embedded.	Transparency and clarity on governance arrangements for LGSS partnership.	CLT / Audit Committee	31/12/16
5	Devolution / shared service agenda	Assurance that governance arrangements are corporately visible, agreed and applied for such initiatives across MKC.	Transparency and clarity on governance arrangements for; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Governance of such arrangements across MKC - Governance of key individual arrangements 	CLT / Audit Committee	31/12/16

“Good corporate governance is about 'intellectual honesty' and not just sticking to rules and regulations”.

Mervyn King (Chairman: King Report on Corporate Governance)



Civic Offices, Central Milton Keynes