

Appendix A - 2011-12 Annual Governance Statement Action Plan

No.	Links to Council's vision	Governance framework that identified issue	Commentary on significant AGS issue	Action plan	Responsibility
1	All	<p>Management Assurance Statement</p> <p>Internal Audit</p>	<p><u>IT Disaster Recovery Arrangements</u></p> <p>Major and prolonged failure of Hertsmere's IT systems as a result of disaster is likely to result in a failure in the Council's ability to fully provide its services. The implementation of effective disaster recovery arrangements is a form of insurance policy against such an outcome.</p> <p>In March 2012, Internal Audit issued a report that was agreed with Management recommending that the Council should develop and implement a formal corporate IT Disaster Recovery Plan, including off-site recovery arrangements.</p>	<p>1) Development, implementation and testing of a Corporate IT Disaster Recovery Plan. Target Date – October 2012</p>	<p>Head of Finance and Business Services</p>
2	All	<p>Management Assurance Statement</p>	<p><u>Financial Uncertainty</u></p> <p>Local Government Financing is facing unprecedented challenges with the planned changes to localise Council Tax and Business Rates, Community Infrastructure Levy and Welfare Reform Act.</p>	<p>1) The Treasury Management strategy is being kept under review in response to the current economic climate in order to safeguard the Council's investments.</p> <p>2) A balanced budget has been set for 2012/13 and will be monitored</p>	<p>Head of Finance and Business Services</p>

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			Another wave of austerity is likely to cut Local Authorities funding grants from Government. The Council faces difficult decisions to ensure it balances its books.	throughout the year. 3) The Council is exploring a Hertfordshire wide solution in relation to the localisation of Council Tax and Business Rates Retention.	
3	All	Management Assurance Statement	<u>Planning Appeals</u> There are ongoing challenges being made by the way of Planning Appeals and/or Ombudsman complaints that may result in substantial costs/compensation being awarded against the Council.	1) Strengthen the Planning decision making process. Target Date – 30 September 2012	Director for Environment
4	Economic wellbeing Quality environments	Management Assurance Statement External Audit	<u>Planning Services</u> In December 2011, the Council's external auditors issued a Planning Services Review report which made eight recommendations to improve the performance of the Council's Planning Services. A presentation was made to the Council's Overview and Performance Scrutiny committee in June 2012.	1) There is an action plan in place to address the external audit recommendations, including the procurement and implementation of a new planning system. Target Date – January 2013	Head of Planning & Building Control