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NON-EXEMPT

# HAVANT BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT & FINANCE COMMITTEE

23 March 2023

## Quarterly Governance & Risk Report

FOR NOTING

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Denton

Key Decision: No

Report Number: HBC/125/2023

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### 1. Purpose

- 1.1. This paper is submitted to Audit & Finance Committee to provide a strategic overview of governance matters for quarter three 2022-23. It is part of our regular reporting of governance matters.

### 2. Recommendation

- 2.1. Committee are asked to note the summary of governance information contained in Appendix 1.

### 3. Executive Summary

- 3.1. Governance is about how local government bodies ensure that they are doing the right things, in the right way, for the right people, in a timely, inclusive, open, honest and accountable manner.
- 3.2. It comprises the systems and processes, and cultures and values, by which local government bodies are directed and controlled and through which they account to, engage with, and where appropriate, lead their communities. Ultimately, corporate governance is the system by which we direct and control our functions, and how they relate to our community.

3.3. The quarterly Corporate Governance report at Appendix 1 details information covering:

- a. Corporate risk
- b. Complaints
- c. Information requests
- d. Internal & External Audit
- e. Equality and inclusion
- f. Annual Governance Statement
- g. Business Continuity Plans

**4. Additional Budgetary Implications**

4.1. None

**5. Background and relationship to Corporate Strategy, Climate & Environment Strategy and/or Business Plans**

5.1. Corporate governance comprises the systems and values by which Havant Borough Council is directed and controlled and through which it is accountable. To demonstrate compliance with the principles of good corporate governance, Havant Borough Council must ensure that it does the right things and in the right way. The Council must also ensure that this is done in a timely, inclusive, open, honest and accountable manner.

**6. Options considered**

6.1. None - regular reporting of governance is a key part of good governance, ensuring that the council's is operating effectively.

**7. Resource Implications**

7.1. *Financial Implications* – none

**Section 151 Officer comments**

Date: 13/03/23

There are no direct financial implications as a result of approving the recommendations within the report.

7.2. *Human Resources Implications:* none

7.3. *Information Governance Implications* – none

7.4. *Other resource implications* – none

**8. Legal Implications**

8.1. No direct legal implications arise

**Monitoring Officer comments**

Date: 21/2/2023

The remit of the Audit & Finance Committee is to review the Council's corporate governance arrangements and to monitor the effective development and operation of risk management in the Council (Section E3 – Audit & Finance Committee, Part 2 Section E Non-Executive Committees, Constitution)

**9. Risks**

9.1. The corporate risk register has been updated as part of the quarterly review. All corporate risk are reported through the Management Team. Mitigations are in place for handling all corporate risks. A summary of all the corporate risk scores and movements over the previous quarter is provided within the report at appendix 1.

**10. Climate & Environment Implications**

10.1. None.

**11. Consultation**

11.1. The information contained within this report has been gathered through quarterly data collection supplied by managers and Executive Heads. The report has been reviewed by the Management Team and also presented to Cabinet Briefing.

**12. Communication**

12.1. This report will be shared with Councillors as part of the publication of the Audit & Finance Committee papers which this report is sent to.

**13. Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Quarterly Governance & Risk report

**14. Background papers**

None

Agreed and signed off by:

Executive Head: Matt Goodwin 20/2/23

Monitoring Officer: Mark Watkins, Chief Legal Officer 21/2/23

Deputy Section 151 Officer: Wayne Layton, Chief Finance Officer 13/3/23