

Appendix 2: Summary of Points Raised in Relation to the Draft Annual Governance Statement 2020/21, updated with the Action Taken for the Draft Annual Governance Statement 2021/22

Point Raised	Summary of Action Taken/Proposed for AGS 2020/20	Action taken for AGS 2021/22
How do we benchmark our governance arrangements/the quality of our AGS, what is our peer group?	Something to take on board for future years – a more visual presentation is required, using infographics and diagrams for example. The AGS is a requirement for the City Fund in relation to the local authority functions so the peer group will be local authorities. There is an argument that the AGS should cover all operations of the City Corporation as the separation between funds complicates this, although this was met with resistance from some key Officers. No Action for 2020/21 AGS	The draft AGS 2021/22 has been prepared with CIFPA's AGS evaluation criteria in mind, and comparable local authorities Annual Governance Statements (including Westminster City Council) have also been reviewed, as a part of considering its quality and presentation.
The AGS doesn't really say much about the actual governance arrangements and background information in relation to the City Corporation	This information is available via a hyperlink in the document at paragraph 3, but for future years, the AGS should aim to cover some of this in a diagram, without duplicating the information in the City Fund Accounts. No Action for 2020/21 AGS	Information on our governance arrangements has been added in diagram form and more hyperlinks have been added to signpost the more detailed information that is publicly available more clearly.
The AGS should reflect the role of the Committee in monitoring and driving implementation of Internal Audit Recommendations	Paragraph 26 updated accordingly	
Conformance to Public Sector Internal Audit Standards – While “Generally Conforms” is noted as the terminology used in relation to compliance with the PSIAS, this isn't a particularly positive form of words and could be interpreted by the reader of the AGS as an indication that there are areas of non-conformance	Paragraph 25 updated	
In relation to the governance Review – there is a disproportionate level of detail in relation to the Police Authority vs the City Corporation, this may give the impression that the Corporation is moving slowly on this.	Paragraph 10 in the original version of the AGS contains more on the Lisvane review, this has been brought forward and now becomes paragraph 5, the former paragraph 5, (now 6) has been edited down, to maintain balance across activities. Actioned	
There should be more content on the wider sources of assurance, differentiating between audit and other sources of assurance	To be incorporated within the AGS for the following year. No Action for 2020/21 AGS	

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<p>Electoral Arrangements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commentary required on the amended democratic mandate (Suspension of elections) when there was no legal obligation to do so 2. Review of the Ward Lists not mentioned 	<p>Additional text added at paragraph 37. Actioned</p>	
<p>Major Programmes governance/assurance – the Deep Dive review of Major Programmes risk referred to the governance structure, this forms part of the overall governance framework and so should be incorporated in the AGS</p>	<p>Paragraph 19 amended to incorporate the role of CBC and Major Programmes Assurance meetings. Actioned.</p>	
<p>The AGS should reference the Risk Management Framework, which the Committee reviews and agrees annually</p>	<p>Paragraph 22 amended to incorporate this. Actioned.</p>	
<p>Paragraphs in relation to the Role of Audit – add more information about the role of the Committee in relation to ensuring the timeliness of implementation of audit recommendations (some infographic or KPI would add value)</p>	<p>Additional commentary to be added to paragraph 24 in relation to follow-up on previously completed Audit reviews and recommendation implementation. Actioned.</p> <p>A more visual presentation to be adopted for subsequent years, incorporating some format of KPI or performance metric.</p>	<p>A more visual document has been drafted, which includes the addition of Key Performance Indicators.</p>
<p>Performance Management – more information should be included on the work undertaken to embed performance management, and performance in previous years.</p>	<p>Additional content added at paragraph 14 plus two additional actions in the action plan. Actioned</p>	
<p>There should be a more explicit link to the Corporate Plan, how well does the AGS sync up with that? There are opportunities to demonstrate continuous performance improvement and links to future strategy</p>	<p>To be considered for incorporation in subsequent years, a methodology will need to be determined for this – the Chief Strategy Officer supports this as a concept. No action for 2020/21 AGS</p>	<p>A link to the Corporate Plan has been added, and a link to publicly available Corporate Performance Framework data will be added when this is available.</p>
<p>Financial Management – should this say something about the pension deficit? We have a good story to tell in relation to this, so could we reference this?</p>	<p>This is more relevant to the Financial Statements than the AGS, the notes to the accounts will incorporate this. No action required</p>	