

Summary of Member comments and Chief Executive response

Please note that comments/proposed amendments and factual/typographical observations were received from Councillor Vellacott together with Stephen Joyce (then) lay member on Audit Committee. The table below summarises substantive comments and the appropriate references to amendments made by the Chief Executive. Typographic suggestions are not set out below but have been incorporated.

Issue	Response
P6 Whistleblowing should reflect how people who are not employees may raise concerns.	This is now covered in the narrative relating to how the public can raise concerns through the complaints procedure as 'Whistleblowing' is for staff. Amendment made (p6)
P6 GDPR training should also reflecting training for Members.	Amendment made (p6).
P6, Principle A, development in 2025/26 column It is not obvious how the comment on the Annual Infrastructure Funding Statement relates to the narrative in the middle column?	The Director Finance and S151 Officer is responsible for ensuring that appropriate advice is given on financial matters, for keeping proper financial records and accounts, and for maintaining an effective system of internal control. Demonstrates compliance with regulations and government reporting requirements. No changes to final draft AGS.
P6, Principle A, development in 2026/27	Amendment made (p6).

Reflect the delays to the LGR announcement	
P8, Principle B, "Documenting a commitment to openness and acting in the public interest" Consider including more to the statement 'acting in the public interest'?	This has been reviewed. The narrative captures the intention of the statement. No changes to final draft AGS.
p10, Principle B, clear communications Consider including any communications with the business community and Voluntary Organisations?	Amendment made (p10).
P14, Principle C, vision/planning What is the Council's "vision"?	Amendment made (p14)
P14, Principle C, re. MTFS and Climate & Nature Strategy Is the Chief Executive satisfied that the actions in the Climate & Nature Strategy are fully costed and incorporated into MTFS?	The Chief Executive is satisfied that the budget in the MTFS is sufficient to meet the actions in the strategy. No changes to final draft AGS.
P14/16 Principle C, vision/planning Consider referencing the Corporate Plan for development in 2026/27.	The Corporate Plan does not expire until July 2027. The next Corporate Plan will be considered by Council following the May 2027 election. No changes to final draft AGS.
P18, 2nd row re performance management Include reference to Member oversight.	This is included elsewhere. The respective policy committees approve the Service Delivery Plans. No changes to final draft AGS.
P18, 2nd row re 'robust financial management' Consider whether statement reflects the continuous annual underspends which could be a concern.	The budgeting cycle reflects the Council's longstanding practice. No changes to final draft AGS.
P20, financial management	Amendment made (p20).

Consider including narrative about guidance for budget holders / financial regulations & procedures / training for budget holders? Consider including new S151 Officer appointment and other changes to the Finance team.	
P22, first row, development column Consider adding conclusion of Statutory Officer self-assessment	Amendment made (p22).
P26, first row How does the Vulnerable Community Strategy being updated in 2025/26 relate to workforce health & wellbeing?	Not directly relevant, amendment made (p26).
P26, second row Are there other services that should be included?	Amendments made (p26)
P28, risk management Does the Council carry out a lessons learned review?	Amendment made (p28).
P32, 1st row Reflect the Audit Committee self-assessment.	Amendment made (p32).
P34 Principle G Reflect the EY identified weaknesses, recommendations and the actions being taken to address these.	Amendment made (p34).
P6 Does Council receive reports on Member Code of Conduct complaints?	No reporting is carried out on this matter. No changes to final draft AGS.
P14 Reference that Corporate Plan actions are reviewed annually with new actions agreed by Council for the year ahead.	Amendment made (p14).
P14 The government agenda includes a devolution agenda, should the AGS have more detail?	Not enough is known for more specific reference in the AGS.

	No changes made to final draft AGS.
P18 Consider including changes arising from Planning and Infrastructure Bill	Amendments made (p18)
P20 Consider including reference to briefings with Chair of Audit Committee	The comment is noted. The narrative relates to strategic briefings. All Committee Chair's have a briefing with the Lead Officer. This section is not intended to include those references. No changes made to final draft AGS.
P22 Clarification on what is meant by the statement 'Consultations of proposed policies which have significant legal, financial and ethical implications'.	Statement added in error. Now removed.
P24 Include reference to Data Protection training and commitment to Audit Committee training.	Amendment made (p24).
P26 Consider expanding on how Co pilot will be used Consider expanding on Cyber Security and reference to new intranet Is the AI Acceptable Use a Policy, if so who approved it?	Amendments made (p26).
P28 Include reference to Audit Committee receiving Corporate Risk Register.	Amendment made (p28).
P28 Consider further detail to the statement 'The council's S151 Officer is satisfied that there is compliance with the principles in the Financial Management Code.'	Noted and reviewed. No amendments made to final draft AGS.
P30 Reference the new ECSS contract.	Amendment made (p30).

P32 Consider mention of IT processes including disaster recovery.	Comment notes. This is referenced elsewhere in the AGS. No changes made to the final draft AGS.
P36 Consider including the action plan recommended in the Audit Committee Annual Report for 2025/26.	Amendment made (p36).
P40 Statement should reflect the national issue and needs to refer to other sections of the AGS	Amendment made (p40).
P42 Consider including information on the actions taken.	Amendment made (p42).
P42 Consider inclusion of LGR risks and how these will be managed.	Amendment made (p42).