



PERTH AND KINROSS INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD

27 JUNE 2022

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Report by Head of Finance and Corporate Services
(Report No. G/22/103)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to seek approval of the Annual Governance Statement for the financial year 2021/22 which provides assurance as to the effectiveness of the Integration Joint Board's (IJB) governance framework and in particular the system of internal control.

1. RECOMMENDATION(S)

1.1 It is recommended that the IJB:

- (i) Approve the 2021/22 Annual Governance Statement for inclusion in the unaudited Annual Accounts

2. SITUATION / BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES

2.1 On an annual basis the IJB has to include an Annual Governance Statement (AGS) within its Annual Accounts.

2.2 The purpose of the AGS is to give assurance to our stakeholders that we have effective governance arrangements in place to ensure that, as an IJB, we are doing the right things for the right people at the right time in an open, honest and accountable way.

2.3 Reliance is also placed on NHS Tayside and Perth & Kinross Council's systems of internal control that support compliance with both organisations' policies and promotes achievement of each organisation's aims and objectives, as well as those of the IJB.

2.4 The AGS provides an opportunity to review our rules, resources, systems, processes, culture, and values to make sure that our governance framework and in particular our system of internal control is:

- legally compliant
- ethically sound; and
- fit for purpose

thereby enabling the IJB to achieve its strategic objectives and facilitates the provision of high quality services that meet the needs of our communities, in an appropriate, efficient and affordable way. It is important therefore, that governance issues are identified systematically and comprehensively and reported in an open and transparent manner.

2.5 The Annual Governance Statement for 2021/22 (Appendix 1), once approved, will form part of the unaudited Annual Accounts.

3. PROPOSALS

3.1 The process for reviewing the integrity and effectiveness of our governance arrangements to inform the AGS has been led by the Head of Finance and Corporate Services. Evidence has been gathered by way of self-assessment which has been scrutinised by the Head of Finance and Corporate Services and the Executive Management Team.

3.2 The self-assessment identified many areas of progress which have been highlighted clearly .

3.3 However a number of areas for further improvement have been identified, a number of which have been carried forward from last year . These will form a core part of the PKHSCP Partnership Improvement Plan for 2022/23.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 The assurance process has demonstrated that the IJB has in place adequate internal controls that are considered fit for purpose in accordance with the governance framework.

4.2 The process has been successful in identifying areas for improvement that will further strengthen the governance arrangements.

4.3 These will form key elements of the Partnership Improvement Plan (PIP) as it rolls forward to 2022/23. Updates on progress of the PIP will be provided to each meeting of the IJB's Audit and Performance Committee.

Author(s)

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APPENDIX

1. Unaudited Annual Accounts 2021/22

NOTE: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information), were relied on to any material extent in preparing this report.