

**WHIMPLE PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT
UPDATE ON THE 2024/2025 IMPROVEMENT ACTION PLAN**

A report was published with the Council's Annual Governance Statement for the 2024/25 financial year giving an explanation as to why a statement had been answered as 'no'.

The report also set out the improvement actions that the Council would take in 2025/26 to improve its governance arrangements.

Statement answered as 'no'

We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.

Improvement Actions for 2025/26

The Risk Management Strategy will be reviewed and approved by the Council at the Annual Meeting in May 2025.

A risk assessment has been drafted and will be considered and approved by the Council at the Annual Meeting on 19 May 2025.

The Council now has a forward plan and reviewing the risk assessment has been scheduled to be on the Council agenda on a quarterly basis. This will include adding any new or emerging risks. Evidence of considering the risks and actions taken to mitigate them will be formally recorded in the minutes.

Progress against the improvement actions for 2025/26

The Council's Risk Management Strategy was reviewed and approved on 19 May 2025 (minute 22)

The Council's Risk Assessment was reviewed and approved on 19 May 2025 (minute 23).

Quarterly reviews of the Risk Assessment have taken place on:

Quarter 1 – 21 July 2025 (minute 67). Councillors identified Local Government Reorganisation and the Neighbourhood Plan as emerging risks to be added to the risk assessment.

Quarter 2 – 20 October 2025 (minute 108). Councillors did not feel that any new or emerging risks needed to be added to the risk assessment at this time.

Quarter 3 – 19 January 2026 (minute 169). A risk relating to the Bring Your Own Device Policy had been added to the risk assessment.

Quarter 4 – this is on the agenda for the 20 April 2026 meeting.

All actions identified in the improvement action plan have been actioned.