

AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

29 October 2020

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF AUDIT & GOVERNANCE, MONITORING OFFICER

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT & CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

EXEMPT INFORMATION

None.

PURPOSE

To submit the refreshed Annual Governance Statement and Code of Corporate Governance for Audit & Governance Committee's approval.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the proposed be approved:

- a) The Annual Governance Statement (for inclusion in the annual statement of accounts) at **Appendix 1**; and
- b) Code of Corporate Governance at **Appendix 2**.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Accounts and Audit Regulations require local authorities conduct an annual review of the effectiveness of their system of internal control and include a statement (Annual Governance Statement) with their published statement of accounts.

The Account & Audit Regulations stipulate that the Annual Governance Statement be prepared in accordance with 'proper practices'. As has been the case in previous years, the CIPFA / SOLACE 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (2016)' has been used as the framework to fulfil this requirement.

The proposed Annual Governance Statement for 2019/20 is attached at **Appendix 1**. It should be noted that the Annual Governance Statement only includes significant governance issues, the detail is contained within the Code of Corporate Governance.

The Code of Corporate Governance 2019/20 has been refreshed and is attached as **Appendix 2**. The Code indicates what is expected as per the Framework (what assurance do we want) and what we have in place (what assurance do we get) to ensure that the principles of good governance are met.

This year's review has identified that the Council's governance arrangements largely comply with best practice, with some minor areas for improvement which are detailed in the action plan below:

20/21 Action	Responsibility / Date
Finalisation of Communication Strategy and Social Media Policy	Assistant Director People March 2021
Finalisation of Organisational Development Strategy	Assistant Director People March 2021

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

None

LEGAL/RISK IMPLICATIONS

Failure to produce an AGS would result in non-compliance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations and a risk that failures in Governance would not be identified and therefore addressed.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

None

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

None

REPORT AUTHOR

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LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Annual Governance Statement 2019/20
Appendix 2 Code of Corporate Governance 2019/20