

Tuesday, 27 June 2023

Report of the Chief Executive

Annual Governance Statement and 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:

1. The Annual Governance Statement (for inclusion in the annual statement of accounts) at **Appendix 1**; and
2. 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 (AGS) 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.

No additional guidance has been provided by CIPFA for 2022/23, therefore the format of the AGS and Code of Corporate Governance remains similar to that produced for 2021/22. Both the proposed AGS and Code of Corporate Governance have been circulated to Chief Executive, Executive Management Team and Assistant Directors for their review and update. These comments have been incorporated into the AGS and Code of Corporate Governance.

The proposed Annual Governance Statement for 2022/23 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 for 2022/23 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. No areas for improvement were identified.

Options Considered

Not Applicable

Resource Implications

None.

Legal/Risk Implications Background

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.

Equalities Implications

None.

Environment and Sustainability Implications (including climate change)

None.

Background Information

None.

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List of Background Papers

None.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2022/23
Appendix 2 – Code of Corporate Governance 2022/23