

Wednesday, 26 June 2024

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 by 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 Accounts and 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.

Additional guidance has been provided by CIPFA for 2023/24 and this has been adopted in the compilation of the AGS. Both the proposed AGS and Code of Corporate Governance has been circulated to Chief Executive, Executive Management Team and Assistant Directors for their review and update. All comments received have been incorporated into the AGS and Code of Corporate Governance.

The proposed Annual Governance Statement for 2023/24 is attached at **Appendix 1**. It should be noted that the AGS only includes significant governance issues, the detail is contained within the Code of Corporate Governance.

The Code of Corporate Governance for 2023/24 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

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2023/24
Appendix 2 – Code of Corporate Governance 2023/24