



Audit & Governance Committee
27 July 2017

Annual Report of Surrey County Council

Purpose of the report:

To formally consider the Annual Report for the authority

Recommendations:

It is recommended to:

1. Note and endorse the Annual Report (Annex A) for the authority

Introduction:

2. Corporate organisations publish their annual reports depending on Companies Act, financial regulations, accountancy bodies' guidance and the optional International Integrated Reporting Council (IIRC) guidelines. Currently to publish an annual report on the similar basis of a corporate organisation in local government is voluntary.
3. The Leader and Chief Executive Officer considers that it is a necessity to publish such an annual report with information relevant to local government and accessible for all stakeholders. However, there is little guidance for local authorities publishing an annual report. To create this annual report, we have combined certain corporate requirements with leading international annual report examples.
4. The Annual Report's content has slightly changed for 2016/17 and the layout is similar to a corporate organisational annual report.

Changes to the annual report

5. There have been a few changes in the content from 2015/16:
 - as partnerships working is now integrated into our business, the partnership review by the Chief Executive has been absorbed into the Leader and Chief Executive Review,

- we have now extended the complaints summary to include compliments (Annex A, pg 29) and health & safety at work (Annex A, pg 41); and
 - for the first time, we have also reflected on our Fairness and Equalities strategy (Annex A, pg 45).
6. In the past, our annual report has been one document that has been gradually growing in size. When considering the internet accessibility strategy, we needed to improve the electronic accessibility. So the electronic version will be split into four small easily accessible distinct sections:
- **Our highlights** – reviews the 2016/17 year from the Leader and Chief Executive, provides a brief overview of our remit in local government and outlines our current strategy for this reporting year (Annex A pg 1 to 16).
- This links to the other sections:**
- **Our performance** – highlights our achievements over the reporting year, summarises the results from the resident surveys and the consolidated complaints and compliments. (Annex A pg 17 to 30)
 - **Our governance and structure** - outlines our governance and structure, reports back on our people, and fairness and equalities strategies and highlights our progress in environmental sustainability (*Note: still require Environmental Sustainability section as figures are not ready until next week*). (Annex A pg 31 to 48)
 - **Our finances** – features the Director of Finance’s review, summarises risk register and financial statements. (Annex A pg 49 to 69)
7. The endorsement of the Audit & Governance Committee, will formalise the completion of the 2016/17 Annual Report. Council delegates responsibility to the Audit & Governance committee to receive the audited Statement of Accounts and the result of the external audit, and the committee’s endorsement of the Annual Report supplements this process.

Conclusions:

- 8. The county council’s annual report, set out in Annex A, provides a thorough review of 2016/17
- 9. The Annual Report 2016/17 will be available and published (external website and paper) in August.

Financial and value for money implications

- 10. There are no direct financial implications of this report, all financial implications in the accounts have been made in line with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the UK 2017/18 and any impact on the 2016/17 budget has been considered in the outturn report to the Cabinet.

Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 11. There are no direct equalities implications of this report.

Risk Management Implications

- 12. There are no direct risk management implications of this report.

Next steps:

The Annual report 2016/17 will be available and published (external website and paper) in August.

Report contact: Verity Royle, Senior Principal Accountant, Finance Service

Contact details: 020 8541 9225 / verity.royle@surreycc.gov.uk

Sources/background papers:

Financial Outturn 2016/17 – Report to Cabinet 27 April 2017.
Statement of Accounts 2016/17 – Report to Audit & Governance Committee 27 July 2017

This page is intentionally left blank