



Audit & Governance Committee
18 June 2021

2020/21 Draft Annual Governance Statement

Purpose of the report:

This report presents the draft Annual Governance Statement, which summarises the council's governance arrangements for the financial year ending 31 March 2021.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the committee:

1. Review the contents of the draft Annual Governance Statement (Annex A) to satisfy themselves that the governance arrangements are represented correctly; and
2. Commend the draft Annual Governance Statement for publication with the council's Statement of Accounts.

Introduction

- 1 The council is required to annually review the effectiveness of its governance arrangements and produce an Annual Governance Statement. Once signed by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive, the Annual Governance Statement is incorporated in the Statement of Accounts.

Annual Governance Statement 2020/21

- 2 The 2020/21 draft Annual Governance Statement is attached at Annex A and includes:
 - A summary of the key activities during the year and the main elements of the governance framework;
 - An update on the actions taken on the key issues identified in the 2019/20 AGS; and
 - An action plan for the issues identified in this year's AGS.

Consultation

- 3 The Governance Panel, Executive Director of Resources, Director of Law and Governance, Chief Executive and Leader of the Council have been consulted and their comments are incorporated.

Implications

- Financial**
4 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Continued improvements in governance will support the delivery of the council's objectives.

- Equalities**
5 There are no direct equalities implications of this report.

- Risk management**
6 Strong governance arrangements support the council in the effective delivery of services and achievement of objectives.

What happens next

The Annual Governance Statement will be signed by the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council and then incorporated into the council's Statement of Accounts for 2020/21.

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Sources/background papers: Code of Corporate Governance. CIPFA/SOLACE framework *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government*.
