

Audit & Governance Committee
10 July 2024

2023/24 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 2024.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

1. Review the contents of the draft Annual Governance Statement (Annex 1) 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 2023/24

2. The 2023/24 draft Annual Governance Statement is attached at Annex 1 and includes:
 - A summary of the key activities during the year and the main elements of the council's governance framework;
 - An update on the actions taken on the key issues identified in the 2022/23 AGS; and
 - An action plan for the issues identified in this year's AGS.

Consultation

3. The Governance Panel, Interim Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Services, Interim Director of Law and Governance, Corporate Leadership Team 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.

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

7. There are no direct legal implications of this report. The Annual Governance Statement process ensures that the Council discharges its statutory duties under the Local Government Act 1999 and the completion and approval is required by the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015.

What happens next

8. The Annual Governance Statement will be signed by the Interim Head of Paid Service and the Leader of the Council and then incorporated into the Council's Statement of Accounts for 2023/24.

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Sources/background papers:

Code of Corporate Governance. CIPFA/SOLACE framework *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government*.

Annexes:

Annex 1 - 2023/24 draft Annual Governance Statement
