

Committee: Governance, Audit and Performance Committee

Date:

Tuesday, 2 June 2020

Title: Draft Annual Governance Statement 2019-20

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Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the draft Annual Governance Statement published to complement the Council's Statement of Accounts 2019/20

Recommendations

2. That Members approve the draft Annual Governance Statement

Financial Implications

3. None. There are no costs associated with this report

Background Papers

4. None

Impact

- 5.

Communication/Consultation	The draft Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 has been prepared in consultation with the Corporate Management Team and Senior Managers
Community Safety	None
Equalities	None
Health and Safety	None
Human Rights/Legal Implications	None
Sustainability	None
Ward-specific impacts	None

Workforce/Workplace	None
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Situation

6. Under the Council's constitution this committee is responsible for overseeing the Council's work around corporate governance. In 2016 the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) published a new framework and guidance for delivering good governance in local government. The guidance requires an authority to review the effectiveness of its governance arrangements against the key elements of the systems and processes that compromise an authority's governance.
7. The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require an Annual Governance Statement to be published to complement the published statement of accounts; the good practice recommendation is that this Statement should be considered separately to the published accounts.
8. The Draft Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 (appendix A) has been prepared in consultation with senior officers and using information from the 2018/19 Annual Governance Statement, which has been reviewed and updated to reflect the operation of the Council during 2019/20.
9. The Draft Annual Governance Statement has been agreed by the Corporate Management Team.
10. The Draft Annual Governance Statement includes reference to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the Council at the end of 2019/20. The Annual Governance Statement is a living document and further review and updates will be made to it to ensure it is current at the time of publication with the Statement of Accounts which is expected to be by the end of July 2020.
11. Evidence in support of the Annual Governance Statement is being prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Guidance for examination by the External Auditors as part of their 2019/20 Audit and will be available to members on request.
12. A copy of the CIPFA Guidance and the draft Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 showing changes from the 2018/19 statement is available to Members on request.

Risk Analysis

13.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
No Annual Governance Statement is	1 = Little or no likelihood Timetable and	3 = Significant impact – action	The Annual governance Statement is reviewed

produced for inclusion in the Financial Accounts	Framework to be established for the review, monitoring and preparation of the Annual Governance Statement	required Statutory requirement, adverse External Auditor Report	by the External Auditor and by the Governance, Audit & Performance Committee
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1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.