

Audit Committee Meeting	
Meeting Date	25 July 2022
Report Title	Annual Governance Statement 2021/22
EMT Lead	Director of Resources – Lisa Fillery
Head of Service	
Lead Officer	
Classification	Open
Recommendations	1. The Chair and Members of the Audit Committee are asked to review and endorse the Annual Governance Statement to be included in the Council's Statement of Accounts 2021/22.

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Council is required by statute to seek the agreement of the Audit Committee to the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) which will form part of its Annual accounts. The statement reviews the Council's corporate governance and risk management processes and identifies any significant governance issues. The AGS is attached as appendix I to this report.

2 Background

- 2.1 An annual review of the Council's governance arrangements and the subsequent preparation and publication of an AGS are statutory requirements by virtue of the Accounts and Audit Regulations (England) 2015. The AGS forms part of the Annual Statement of Accounts and so will be published with the draft accounts that will be subject to external audit over the summer.
- 2.2 The Council's governance arrangements in place during 2021/22 have been reviewed and an AGS has been drafted which shows our governance compliance.
- 2.3 The AGS has been prepared in accordance with good practice set out the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) in the document "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government" and the Accounts and Audit Regulations. Cabinet agreed a Local Code of Governance on 14 June 2017 which reflected these documents.

3 Proposals

- 3.1 The AGS provides members with the results of our yearly assessment of how well we are identifying, assessing, managing, and controlling risks, achieving our aims, and meeting the responsibilities we have by law.
- 3.2 We are responsible for making sure that we:
- carry out our business in line with the law and proper standards;
 - protect public money and account for it properly; and
 - use public money economically, efficiently and effectively
- 3.3 Committee members are asked to approve the AGS for inclusion within the Annual Statement of Accounts. Audit findings on the Statement will be reported back to this Committee in advance of the publication of the final Statement of Accounts in November. Recommendations specific to amendments to the AGS will be reported by exception if required.

4 Alternative Options

- 4.1 If the AGS is not approved this committee could recommend amendments to the Statement.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 The AGS has been produced in conjunction with Strategic Management Team and has been reviewed by the Monitoring Officer.
- 5.2 Regular reporting of the Council's corporate and operational risks, help inform the details contained within this statement.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	The Annual Governance Statement covers all service areas and governance of council services that deliver the Corporate Plan
Financial, Resource and Property	Agreement of the AGS is a key part of the process for producing and agreeing the Council's statutory accounts.
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	Need to comply with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
Crime and Disorder	No implications

Environment and Climate/Ecological Emergency	No implications
Health and Wellbeing	No implications
Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults	No implications
Risk Management and Health and Safety	Risk management process informs preparation of the AGS
Equality and Diversity	No implications
Privacy and Data Protection	No implications

7 Appendices

- 7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:
- Appendix I: Annual Governance Statement 2021/22.

8 Background Papers

- 8.1 Guidance Notes from CIPFA and SOLACE are held by the Director of Resources.