

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2020/21

REPORT OF: Head of Corporate Resources
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Wards Affected: All MSDC Wards
Key Decision: No
Report to: Audit Committee
26th July 2021

Purpose of Report

1. This report brings forward the authority's Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for consideration and approval.

Recommendation

2. **The Committee is asked to consider and approve the AGS for inclusion in the Statement of Accounts 2020/21.**

Background

3. The Annual Governance Statement is a statutory document which explains the processes and procedures in place to enable the council to carry out its functions effectively.
4. The AGS forms part of the governance framework of the authority and whilst Members have approved it as part of the Statement of Accounts (and will continue to do so) the Cipfa guidance is that it is also considered as a separate item.
5. The document, in addition to stating that the organisation acknowledges its responsibility for ensuring governance is effective, should;
 - focus on outcomes and value for money
 - evaluate against the local code of governance (i.e. the Constitution) and principles
 - be in an open and readable style
 - include an opinion on whether arrangements are fit for purpose
 - include identification of significant governance issues and an action plan to address them
 - explain action taken in the year to address the significant governance issues identified in the previous year's statement
 - be signed by the chief executive and leading member in a council.
6. The AGS is attached at Appendix A. Members are invited to consider the document and approve it for 2020/21.

Policy Context

7. This report fulfils the Council's obligations under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

Other Options Considered

8. None.

Financial Implications

9. None.

Risk Management Implications

10. None.

Equality and Customer Service Implications

11. None.

Other Material Implications

12. None.

Sustainability Implications

13. None

Background Papers

None