

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2023-24

REPORT OF: DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Contact Officer: Assistant Director of Corporate Resources (and S151 Officer)
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Wards Affected: *None*
Key Decision: No
Report to: Audit Committee
19 March 2024

Purpose of Report

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

Recommendation

- 1. The Committee is asked to consider and approve the AGS for inclusion in the Statement of Accounts 2023/24.**
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Background

2. The Annual Governance Statement (AGS) is a statutory document which explains the processes and procedures in place to enable the Council to carry out its functions effectively. 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) CIPFA guidance requires that it is considered as a separate item.
3. The AGS, in addition to acknowledging 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; and
 - be signed by the chief executive and leading Member of a Council.
4. The AGS is attached at Appendix A. Members are invited to consider the document and approve it for 2023/24.

Policy Context

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

Other Options Considered

6. None.

Financial Implications

7. None.

Risk Management Implications

8. None.

Equality and Customer Service Implications

9. None.

Other Material Implications

10. None.

Sustainability Implications

11. None

Appendices

- Appendix A - Annual Governance Statement 2023-24

Background Papers

None