

Cabinet

25 November 2021

2020/21 Annual Governance Statement

Recommendation

1. That Cabinet endorses the 2020/21 Annual Governance Statement and recommends it to Full Council for approval.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report presents the 2020-21 Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for consideration at Appendix 1.
- 1.2 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require the authority to conduct a review, at least once in a year, of the effectiveness of its system of internal control and to prepare an AGS. We have followed CIPFA guidance issued in February 2021 to include relevant areas of governance impact arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. These are captured in Section 3 (Review of Compliance and the Impact of COVID-19) and Section 5 (Governance Issues and Challenges) of the AGS.
- 1.3 It has been assessed, as a result of the AGS evaluation and assurance gathering process, that there are no significant governance issues or governance failures to report.
- 1.4 The results of the evaluation process and a draft AGS were considered and endorsed by the Audit & Standards Committee at its meeting on 10 June 2021. The draft AGS has also been subject to External Audit review followed by further endorsement of the Audit & Standards Committee at its meeting on 4 November, with no substantial amendments required.

2. Financial Implications

None.

3. Environmental Implications

None

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1 The Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance underpins the AGS and sets out the seven core principles of governance and the Council's governance arrangements against each principal. An updated Local Code of Corporate Governance was endorsed by the Audit and Standards Committee in March and approved by Cabinet in April 2021.
- 4.2 Assistant Directors, Chief Fire Officer and the Director of Public Health have completed assurance statements, confirming their understanding and compliance with the Council's approach to the management of risk and good governance in their services.

5. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

- 5.1 The 2020-21 timetable for external audit and accounts approval requires that the proposed AGS, as attached, will be presented with the financial statements for Full Council approval on 14 December, subject to Cabinet endorsement.

Appendices

1. Appendix 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2020/21 for endorsement

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The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local Member(s): N/A

Other members: N/A