

County Council

14 December 2021

2020/21 Annual Governance Statement

Recommendation

That Council approves the 2020/21 Annual Governance Statement.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report presents the 2020/21 Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for consideration at the Appendix.
- 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.
- 1.3 In producing the AGS we have also followed best practice guidance to include relevant areas of governance impact arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. These are captured in Section 3 (delivering governance principles) and Section 5 (Governance Issues) of the AGS.
- 1.4 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. The Council's key areas of strategic risk are presented as governance challenges in Section 5, along with planned and proposed mitigation.

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 principle. 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

- 5.1 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. External Audit then reviewed the Draft AGS and did not propose any amendments, followed by further endorsement of the Audit & Standards Committee at its meeting on 4 November and Cabinet at its meeting on 25 November.

Appendices

1. Appendix 2020-21 Annual Governance Statement

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

Local Member(s):

Other members: