

# **Audit and Standards Committee**

## **Annual Governance Statement 2021/22**

**19 May 2022**

### **Recommendations**

That the Committee endorses the draft Annual Governance Statement at Appendix 1 for onwards consideration by the Council's external auditors

#### **1. Executive Summary**

- 1.1 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 Annual Governance Statement (AGS).
- 1.2 The Draft AGS at Appendix A has been informed by input from a cross-council AGS Evaluation Panel and oversight by the Assistant Director Governance & Policy (as Monitoring Officer), and the Assistant Director Finance (Deputy S151 Officer).
- 1.3 The Draft AGS represents the governance framework as operating throughout 2021/2022 and it has been assessed by the AGS evaluation and assurance gathering process, that there are no significant governance issues or governance failures to report.

#### **2. Financial Implications**

- 2.1 None

#### **3. Environmental Implications**

- 3.1 None

#### **4. Supporting Information**

- 4.1 The AGS is produced in accordance with the CIPFA/SOLACE Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (2016). 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. The Council's Code of Corporate

Governance was updated in 2021 and approved by Cabinet in April 2021. The full details of our current code and how we meet the seven Principles of Good Governance can be found on our website here:

<http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/corporategovernance>

- 4.2 The AGS aims to complement the governance arrangements detailed in the Local Code of Corporate Governance. It should be an open and honest self-assessment of the organisation's performance over the year and key challenges against these principles.
- 4.3 Assistant Directors 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 timetable for producing an approved draft AGS for public inspection and then publication, complies with the amended Accounts & Audit Regulations with key timings being:
- Corporate Board endorsed the draft 2021/22 AGS for consideration by the Audit & Standards Committee;
  - Following consideration and endorsement by the Audit & Standards Committee, the draft 2021/22 AGS will be shared with our external auditors;
  - The final AGS, incorporating any required post audit amendments, will be presented to Audit & Standards and Cabinet in September 2022 to recommend for approval by Full Council in October 2022.

## Appendices

Draft 2021/22 Annual Governance Statement

## Background Papers

None

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

Local Member(s): n/a

Other members: