

# **Audit and Standards Committee**

**25 May 2023**

## **Draft Annual Governance Statement 2022/23**

### **Recommendations**

That the Committee endorses the Draft 2022/23 Annual Governance Statement, at Appendix 1, for onward consideration by the Council's External Auditor.

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

- 1.0 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require the Council to conduct a review, at least once a year, of the effectiveness of its systems of internal control and to prepare an Annual Governance Statement (AGS).
- 1.1 The Draft AGS has been informed by input from colleagues from across the Council and oversight has been provided by the Assistant Director for Finance (Deputy Section 151 Officer).
- 1.2 The Draft AGS represents the governance framework as operating throughout 2022/2023 and it has been considered by Corporate Board and a recommendation made to share with the Audit and Standards Committee.

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

- 2.0 None.

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

- 3.0 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 Code of Corporate Governance underpins the AGS and sets out the seven core principles of governance and the Council's arrangements against each principal.

- 4.2 The Council's Code of Corporate Governance was updated in 2021 and approved by Cabinet in April 2021 and has been in operation throughout 2022/23. 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>.
- 4.3 The AGS aims to compliment the governance arrangements detailed in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance. It presents an open and honest self-assessment of the Council's performance over the year and key challenges against these principles. The AGS provides an update against improvements which were required during the year. Improvement action that the Council plans to take in 2023/24 is also included for the Committee to view.
- 4.4 In line with good practice, Assistant Directors and the Director of Public Health's representative have completed assurance statements at the year end, 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 Accounts & Audit Regulations with key timings being:
- Corporate Board endorsed the draft 2022/23 AGS for consideration by Audit & Standards Committee;
  - Following consideration and endorsement by the Audit & Standards Committee, the draft 2022/23 AGS will be shared with the Council's External Auditor; and
  - The final AGS, incorporating any required post audit amendments, will be presented to Audit & Standards in November 2023 to recommend for approval by Full Council in December 2023.

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Draft 2022/23 Annual Governance Statement.

## **Background Papers**

None.

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

Local Member(s): None.

Other members: None.

**Appendix 1:**