

# Cabinet

10 September 2020

## Draft 2019/20 Annual Governance Statement

### Recommendation

That Cabinet endorses the 2019/20 Annual Governance Statement prior to submission to Council for approval.

### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report presents the 2019/20 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. The consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic led to an April 2020 amendment to the Accounts & Audit Regulations, altering the statutory timetable for the production and publication of the AGS alongside the Financial Statements by 30 November. The Council's revised timetable is at Appendix 2.
- 1.3 We have also followed CIPFA guidance issued in April 2020 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

None

## 5. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

- 5.1 The results of the review and the draft AGS were considered and endorsed by the Audit and Standards Committee at its meeting on 20 July. The draft AGS was also provided to External Audit for review in July with no updates required. The proposed AGS will be presented with the financial statements for final endorsement by the Audit & Standards Committee at its meeting on 28 September.
- 5.2 The AGS will then be submitted, alongside the Council's financial statements, to Council for approval on 13 October.

## Appendices

1. Appendix 1 Draft 2019-20 Annual Governance Statement
2. Appendix 2 Revised AGS timetable

## Background Papers

None

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

Local Member(s): None

Other members: Councillors Singh Birdi, Dirveiks, Gifford, Horner, Reilly