



**Governance & Audit  
Committee**

**Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

**Subject: Completion of 2018/19 Annual Governance Statement (AGS)  
Action Plan**

Report by:

Chief Executive

Contact Officer:

Corporate Governance and Policy Manager &  
Deputy Monitoring Officer

Purpose / Summary:

To present to Members the AGS action plan for  
2018/19 and recommend closure as all actions  
have been completed

**RECOMMENDATION(S): To review the action plan and approve closure as  
all actions have been completed satisfactorily.**

## IMPLICATIONS

**Legal: None**

**Financial: FIN/20/21/TJB**

**None from this report**

**Staffing: None**

**Equality and Diversity including Human Rights: None**

**Data Protection Implications: None**

**Climate Related Risks and Opportunities: None**

**Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations: None**

**Health Implications: None**

**Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report :**

None.

**Risk Assessment: None**

## **1 Background**

- 1.1 The Annual Governance Statement (AGS) is a formal statement under the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011, which details the Council's governance arrangements and issues for the previous year as an annual report of governance.
- 1.2 The system of corporate governance is the way in which we direct and control our services and functions to ensure that we make the best use of all resources.
- 1.3 Assurance of governance arrangements involves a process to test the framework and to gain confidence that it is operating as intended and that we are, "doing the right things, in the right way, for the right people in an open, honest, inclusive and timely manner."
- 1.4 Under normal circumstances The Council is required to produce an AGS for approval by the end of July to accompany the Council's Statement of Accounts. However, due to the current situation the timeframe has been extended to the end of September (as used to be the case up to a couple of years ago).
- 1.5 The AGS includes a summary of the governance framework and identifies those areas where further action is required to achieve greater assurance.

## **2 Annual Governance Statement 2018/19 – Action Plan**

- 2.1 Members of the Governance & Audit Committee received the AGS for 2018/19 in July 2019. They approved its contents and those of an accompanying action plan which detailed a number of matters that were to be addressed over the coming year.
- 2.2 These matters were:
  - Risk Management: Assess the Council's overall 'risk appetite' and subsequently undertake a review of Strategic Risks and develop a means of ensuring that project related risks are consistently recorded and managed.
  - Peer Review: Prepare for and hold a Peer Review to set improvement targets and seek third party accreditation against a nationally recognised framework.
  - Good Governance Review: Work on the findings of the Governance Review, undertaken by Internal Audit, to ensure the Council's culture and values are consistently understood and exhibited.
  - Member Induction & Training: Induct new and returning Councillors and implement the Member Development Training Plan.

- 2.3 Over the course of the year, work has been undertaken against the action plan, with Members receiving a six-month progress report in January 2020.
- 2.4 Further work has been completed to the point where all matters contained within the action plan have been completed. Details are available at Appendix 1.