



**Governance and Audit
Committee**

Tuesday 29th July 2025

Subject: (DRAFT) Annual Governance Statement 2024 - 2025

Report by:

Assistant Director People and Democratic
Services

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Purpose / Summary:

To present to the Governance and Audit
Committee a copy of the DRAFT Annual
Governance Statement for 2024-25 for review
and comments

RECOMMENDATION(S):

1. That members review the DRAFT Annual Governance Statement and provide any comments

IMPLICATIONS

Legal: The Annual Governance Statement complies with the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015. The draft annual governance statement must be published with the statement of accounts as part of the period of Audit and Inspection,

Financial: There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Staffing: None directly arising from this report

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights:

None directly arising from this report

Data Protection Implications:

None directly arising from this report

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities:

None from this report

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations:

None directly arising from this report

Health Implications:

None from this report

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

N/A

Risk Assessment:

N/A

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

☐

No

X

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

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No

X

1. Background

- 1.1 The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 require every council to agree and publish an Annual Governance Statement (AGS).
- 1.2 The system of corporate governance is the way in which we direct and control our services and functions to ensure that the Council is compliant with legislation and directives, that officers and Members demonstrate good behaviours, and the Council makes sound and compliant decisions.
- 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'. (CIPFA 2007)
- 1.4 The AGS includes a summary of the governance framework and identifies those areas where further action is required to achieve greater assurance.

2. Developing the Annual Governance Statement 2024-25

- 2.1 This Draft version will be considered, and various sources of information will be used to develop it, which include: -
 - The Combined Assurance Report 2023-24
 - Internal Audit reports
 - The management of Strategic and Service risks
 - External Audit Annual Audit Letter
 - Review of Comments, Compliments and Complaints
 - Consultation results
 - Ombudsman investigations
 - Review of Whistleblowing
 - Annual review of fraud
 - Comments made by the external Auditors.
- 2.2 Members of the Committee are encouraged to provide comments during and after the meeting if needed, by correspondence to the Monitoring Officer or the S151 Officer.
- 2.3 The Council's Management Team will also consider updated versions of the document prior to the final version being published.

- 2.4 The final version of the Annual Governance Statement will be brought back to this Committee for consideration in the Autumn, prior to final publication.
- 2.5 The Governance Framework follows the seven principles of good governance as set out in CIPFA's "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework" (2016 edition) and is formed by the systems and processes, standards, policies and activities through which it accounts to, engages with and leads the community.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That members That members review the DRAFT Annual Governance Statement and provide any comments