



**Governance and Audit
Committee**

Tuesday, 13 June 2023

Subject: Draft Annual Governance Statement 2022-23

Report by:

Chief Executive

Contact Officer:

Emma Foy
Director of Corporate Services and Section 151
Officer
Emma.foy@west-lindsey.gov.uk

Purpose / Summary:

To present to Members the DRAFT Annual
Governance Statement for 2022-23

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Members review the draft Annual Governance Statement 2021-22 and

1. Identify any additional governance related matters for inclusion

IMPLICATIONS

Legal: The AGS must comply with the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011

(N.B.) Where there are legal implications the report **MUST** be seen by the MO

Financial: FIN/27/24/PD

There are none from this report

Staffing: There are none from this report

(N.B.) Where there are staffing implications the report **MUST** have a HR Ref

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

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

Key Decision:

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

Yes

No

1. Background

- 1.1 The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 require every council to agree and publish an Annual Governance Statement.
- 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.” (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 2022-23

- 2.1 Sources of information used to develop the AGS include:
 - The Combined Assurance Report 2022-23
 - Internal Audit Annual Report
 - 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 external Auditors

3 The Framework

- 3.1 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.

4. Annual Governance Statement 2022-23

- 4.1 The Draft Annual Governance Statement 2021-22 accompanies this report. At this stage, Members are asked to review its content and provide feedback.
- 4.2 Any issues identified in the Annual Internal Audit Report and Combined Assurance statement will be included in the issues to be addressed section

and brought forward to the Governance and Audit Committee in September 2023 for sign off and approval.

- 4.3 All issues contained in the 2021-22 Annual Governance Statements were deemed completed and closed at the April 2023 Audit Committee

5. Recommendation

That Members:

1. Review the draft Annual Governance Statement 2022-23; and
2. Identify any additional governance related matters for inclusion