

Joint report of the Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive, the Monitoring Officer and the Executive Director

Corporate Governance Arrangements

1. Purpose of Report

To inform the Committee of action taken to develop and comply with statutory obligations regarding corporate governance and to seek approval for the Annual Governance Statement for inclusion in the Council's published Statement of Accounts for 2023/24.

2. Recommendation

The Committee is asked to:

1. **RESOLVE that the draft Annual Governance Statement be approved in principle for inclusion in the Council's Statement of Accounts.**
2. **RESOLVE that responsibility be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair of this Committee to make any further amendments deemed necessary.**
3. **NOTE compliance with the Code on Delivering Good Governance in Local Government.**

3. Detail

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require authorities to conduct a review, at least once in each financial year, of the effectiveness of its system of internal control and to include an Annual Governance Statement report on the review with its statement of accounts. To support this process, the Council follows proper practice as set out in the CIPFA/SOLACE publication *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework*. This Framework was initially produced in 2007 with a revised version published in April 2016.

Under the Council's Constitution, this Committee is responsible for overseeing the maintenance of the internal control environment and for monitoring and making recommendations regarding the corporate governance arrangements. The Annual Governance Statement in the **APPENDIX** sets out the actions the Council has taken during 2023/24 to advance the principles of the Code. Furthermore, the Statement includes Governance Risk and Compliance Action Plan. There is also an explanation of the Council's governance arrangements, and an update on the implementation of previously identified improvement actions. It concludes with the draft Annual Governance Statement and the Significant Governance Issues Action Plan for 2024/25. Once approved, it will be signed by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive prior to inclusion within the published accounts. The Chief Audit and Control Officer has confirmed that he considers that the current internal control environment is satisfactory such as to maintain the adequacy of the governance framework.

The appearance of the Annual Governance Statement has been revised to make the document more streamlined and updated.

4. Financial Implications

There were no comments necessary from the Head of Finance Services.

5. Legal Implications

There were no comments necessary from the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal Services.

6. Human Resources Implications

There were no comments necessary from the Human Resource Manager.

7. Union Comments

There were no comments necessary from the Unions.

8. Climate Change Implications

There were no Climate Change Implications.

9. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any OFFICIAL(SENSITIVE) information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

10. Equality Impact Assessment

As there is no change to policy an equality impact assessment is not required.

11. Background Papers

There are no background papers.