

REPORT TO	ON
Governance Committee	26 July 2018



September 2017

TITLE	REPORT OF
Annual Governance Statement	Interim Monitoring Officer

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The report presents the council’s Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for 2018 to provide assurance on the standards of corporate governance spanning all the Council’s priorities and covering all activities.

1.2 The report follows on from the report to Governance Committee on the 29th of May 2018 when Committee considered the draft AGS. At that stage Committee was happy with the contents of the AGS subject to the making of some relatively minor amendments.

1.3 Governance Committee is now asked to approve the amended AGS with a view to it being published with the Statement of Accounts.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee considers and approves the council’s Annual Governance Statement.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

Excellence and Financial Sustainability	X
Health and Wellbeing	
Place	

Projects relating to People in the Corporate Plan:

People	
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4. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

4.1 The earlier report of the 29th of May 2018 sets out the full background to this and the processes we have gone through to produce the AGS. The AGS is attached at Appendix A.

4.2 As members are aware the council is required (the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015) to conduct an annual review of the effectiveness of its system of corporate governance and to publish a statement on the adequacy of the system with its annual accounts.

4.3 The council's AGS is intended to provide assurance on the standards of corporate governance spanning all the council's priorities and covering all activities.

4.4 The AGS explains our governance arrangements, the review of the governance framework against the Local Code of Governance and sets out future plans to improve and strengthen the governance environment. Statutory regulations state that the document should be published with the financial statements; however, it should be emphasised that the AGS is a broader reflection of the whole governance of the council, relating to not just financial controls, but covering all activities of the council.

5. DETAILS AND REASONING

5.1 At its meeting on the 29th of May 2018 Governance committee overall was happy with the contents of the AGS. However, some comments/observations were made and some suggested amendments proposed. Subsequent to the meeting External Audit also suggested that some amendments/additions should be considered. Further some additional updated information has now been incorporated. For your ease of reference the amendments/updates that have been made to the document (since Committee last considered it) are highlighted in purple.

5.2 Moving forward it is a requirement that the AGS statement is signed by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive – subject to the approval of Governance Committee this will now be attended to.

5.3 Further the Statement of Accounts will need to incorporate the AGS. Members will see elsewhere on the agenda a report seeking authority to sign off the Statement of Accounts. The letter of representation will also need to be signed – this again is covered by a report elsewhere on the agenda.

5.4 Accordingly it is good practice that the statement is approved separate to the accounts and signed by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive to emphasise its importance and corporate nature

6.1 Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

The AGS will be published with the financial statements/statement of accounts.

6.2 Comments of the Monitoring Officer

The production of the AGS demonstrates compliance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. More generally it is clearly crucial that the council does everything practicable to demonstrate that its governance regime is as robust as possible – the AGS is a vital part of that

process.

Other implications:	
▶ Risk	The statement and more importantly the underlying process of assessment will enhance our internal control and corporate governance status thus minimising risk
▶ Equality & Diversity	There are no adverse implications for equality issues with this report
▶ HR & Organisational Development	There are no specific HR implications arising from this report
▶ Property & Asset Management	There are no specific Property or asset management implications arising from this report
▶ ICT / Technology	There are no specific ICT implications arising from this report

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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