

Report sponsor: Strategic Director of Corporate Resources
Report author: Head of Internal Audit

Annual Governance Statement 2019/20

Purpose

- 1.1 The Council has to publish an Annual Governance Statement (AGS) to accompany the annual accounts in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. This is produced following the completion of an annual review of the Council's governance arrangements.
- 1.2 The preparation and publication of the AGS is in accordance with the CIPFA/SOLACE "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government" framework.

Recommendations

- 2.1 To approve the Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 at Appendix 1.
- 2.2 To request that the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive sign the Certification on page 22 of the Annual Governance Statement.

Reasons

- 3.1 Approval and publication of an AGS by the City Council is a statutory requirement and provides evidence that the Council maintains high standards of governance and addresses significant shortcomings and risks.

Supporting information

- 4.1 The Council is required by regulation 6 (1) (b) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 to publish an annual governance statement ("AGS") and approve the annual governance statement as required by regulation 6 (2).
- 4.2 The AGS should be prepared in accordance with "proper practices". Proper practices relate to guidance set out in the CIPFA/SOLACE publication "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework" and supporting guidance associated with this.
- 4.3 The AGS for 2019/20 must be published alongside the statement of accounts when they receive final approval, by no later than 30 September 2020. However, the AGS needs to be current at the time of final approval of the accounts.

Public/stakeholder engagement

5.1 None

Other options

6.1 None

Financial and value for money issues

7.1 None

Legal implications

8.1 As detailed in paragraph 4.1 of the main body of this report.

Other significant implications

9.1 None

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal		
Finance		
Service Director(s)		
Report sponsor	Simon Riley, Strategic Director of Corporate Resources & Section 151 Officer	22 September 2020
Other(s)		

Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2019/20