

Annual Governance Statement 2022/23

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.
- 1.3 The Council continues to operate in a dynamic landscape with increased demands for services, inflationary pressures and significant challenges to financial sustainability. The role of the AGS in demonstrating strong stewardship remains paramount.

Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 To review and approve the Annual Governance Statement 2022/23 at Appendix 1.
- 2.2 To delegate to the Director of Corporate Management to make any necessary changes following review by External Audit and the date of the publication of the Annual Accounts (further to them being audited).
- 2.3 To request that the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive sign the Certification at the end of the Annual Governance Statement for publication alongside the statement of accounts.

Reason(s)

- 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 2022/23 must be published alongside the statement of accounts when they receive final approval. 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 this report.

Climate implications

- 9.1 None.

Socio-Economic implications

- 10.1 None.

Other significant implications

- 11.1 None.

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal	Monitoring Officer	4 October 2023
Finance	S151 Officer	4 October 2023
Service Director(s)		
Report sponsor	Chief Executive	4 October 2023
Other(s)		

Background papers:	Draft Annual Governance Statement 2022/23
List of appendices:	