

Report sponsor: Strategic Director of Corporate  
Resources & Section 151 Officer  
Report author: Head of Internal Audit

## **Annual Governance Statement 2020/21**

### **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 review and approve the Annual Governance Statement 2020/21 at Appendix 1.
- 2.2 To delegate to the Strategic Director of Corporate Resources to make any necessary changes following review by External Audit and the date of the publication of the Annual Accounts (following Audit)
- 2.2 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.

### **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 2020/21 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 the main body of this report.

### **Other significant implications**

- 9.1 None

**This report has been approved by the following people:**

<b>Role</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Date of sign-off</b>
<b>Legal</b>		
<b>Finance</b>		
<b>Service Director(s)</b>		
<b>Report sponsor</b>	Simon Riley, Strategic Director of Corporate Resources & Section 151 Officer	20 September 2021
<b>Other(s)</b>		

<b>Background papers:</b>	None
<b>List of appendices:</b>	Appendix 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2020/21