



**AUDIT & ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**  
**19 June 2019**

# ITEM 9

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

## **Draft Annual Governance Statement 2018/19**

### **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 comment on the draft Annual Governance Statement 2018/19 at Appendix 1.

### **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 2018/19 Statement (see Appendix 1) reflects the on-going work within the Council to improve its governance framework.

- 4.4. The AGS has been drafted by the Director of Policy & Insight and the Head of Internal Audit with input from the Acting Director for Legal, Procurement and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer, the Acting Head of Communications and the Policy and Improvement Manager. The process has been overseen by the Strategic Director of Corporate Resources, who chairs the Governance Working Group. The AGS was then reviewed by the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT) on 5 June 2019.
- 4.5 Approval of the AGS will take place, alongside the accounts, at the Audit and Accounts Committee on 31 July 2019. As the AGS has to reflect any significant issues that arise prior to its final approval, if necessary, subsequent amendments will be made to the draft document to reflect them and be reported to this Committee. It remains a live document until it is approved.

### **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 Finance Service Director(s) Report sponsor Other(s)</b>	Strategic Director of Corporate Resources	10 June 2019

<b>Background papers:</b>	None
<b>List of appendices:</b>	Appendix 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2018/19