

Annual Governance Statement 2017-18

Final Decision-Maker	Audit, Governance and Standards Committee
Lead Head of Service/Lead Director	Angela Woodhouse, Head of Policy, Communications and Governance
Lead Officer and Report Author	Angela Woodhouse, Head of Policy, Communications and Governance
Classification	Public
Wards affected	All

Executive Summary

Attached at Appendix A is the Annual Governance Statement for 2017-18. The purpose of the Annual Governance Statement is to provide assurance on the Council's governance arrangements. The local code of corporate governance was revised and adopted in 2017 and does not require refreshing this year.

This report makes the following recommendations to this Committee:

1. To approve the Annual Governance Statement.

Timetable

Meeting	Date
Audit, Governance and Standards Committee	30 July 2018

Annual Governance Statement 2017-18

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Each year the Council reviews its governance arrangements to ensure compliance with the Local Code of Corporate Governance. The purpose of the review is to provide assurance that governance arrangements are adequate and operating effectively and to identify action which is planned to ensure effective governance in the future. The outcome of the review takes the form of an Annual Governance Statement (AGS) prepared on behalf of the Leader at the Council and Chief Executive.
- 1.2 The Council produces the AGS to accompany the statement of accounts. The Audit, Governance and Standards Committee is asked to consider this statement. The statement looks back at the governance arrangements for 2017-18 and identifies areas for action for 2018-19 to ensure good governance is maintained. We do not consider that there are any significant governance issues arising from the review; we have however identified actions for 2018-19 to ensure good standards of governance are maintained and these are set in Appendix A.
- 1.3 Action taken last year includes a resident survey and the delivery of the communication and engagement action plan for 2017-18 and the continuation of a member sounding board and monthly bulletin for members. There was also an externally led away day for group leaders and regular briefings for all members on key topics to ensure members are engaged and informed. The work on risk management has continued with a risk appetite being agreed and changes to the committee report template. The council was putting in place measures to ensure compliance with GDPR and the new Data Protection Act 2018 including training across the council.

2. AVAILABLE OPTIONS

- 2.1 The AGS is a requirement of statutory regulations and provides assurance about the Council's governance arrangements. The Committee is asked to review the Annual Governance Statement and recommend amendments as appropriate.

3. PREFERRED OPTION AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Committee is asked to review the Annual Governance Statement and action plan and approve the areas suggested for improvement for 2018-19.

4. RISK

- 4.1 The Annual Governance Statement considers and gives assurance to the Council's approach to risk management.
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5. CONSULTATION RESULTS AND PREVIOUS COMMITTEE FEEDBACK

- 5.1 The Annual Governance Statement has been reviewed by the Corporate Governance Group and the Council's Leadership Team.
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6. NEXT STEPS: COMMUNICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION

- 6.1 Once approved the Annual Governance Statement is made available on our website and shared with our external auditors.
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7. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES AND IMPLICATIONS

Issue	Implications	Sign-off
Impact on Corporate Priorities	Effective corporate governance arrangements ensure the council's priorities are understood and delivered	Head of Policy, Communications and Governance
Risk Management	Already covered in the risk section	Head of Policy, Communications and Governance
Financial	This report has no direct financial implications. The AGS is a requirement of statutory regulations and provides assurance about the Council's governance arrangements.	Section 151 Officer & Finance Team
Staffing	We will deliver the action plan with our current staffing.	Head of Policy, Communications and Governance
Legal	Under the Council's Constitution one of the functions of the Committee is to oversee the production of the Council's Annual Governance Statement. There are no legal implications	Team Leader (Corporate Governance), MKLS

	identified in the report. The Annual Statement demonstrates measures are in place to ensure good governance arrangements which enable the Council to meet its statutory requirements.	
Privacy and Data Protection	There is action detailed in the plan for 2017-18 on compliance with Data Protection requirements. The Audit, Governance and Standards Committee will receive updates on the GDPR action plan in 2018-19.	
Equalities	Effective corporate governance arrangements include behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting rule of law as set out in the code of corporate governance	Head of Policy, Communications and Governance
Crime and Disorder	Effective corporate governance arrangements include behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting rule of law as set out in the code of corporate governance	Head of Policy, Communications and Governance
Procurement	Effective corporate governance arrangements include behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting rule of law as set out in the code of corporate governance	Head of Policy, Communications and Governance

8. REPORT APPENDICES

The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

- Appendix A: Annual Governance Statement 2017-18
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9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None