

## ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT – 2018/19

### **SUMMARY:**

The purpose of this report is to present the Annual Governance Statement 2018/19 for review and approval.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Members are requested to:

- Approve the Council's Annual Governance Statement 2018/19; and
- Agree to the publication of the Annual Governance Statement alongside the Council's Statement of Accounts.

## **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 In July 2017 the Council adopted a revised Code of Corporate Governance prepared in accordance with the CIPFA/ SOLACE framework documented entitled 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (2016 Edition)'.
  - 1.2 Regulation 6(1) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, provides that each financial year the Council must:
    - a) Conduct a review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control; and
    - b) Prepare an annual governance statement.
  - 1.3 The Annual Governance Statement should be approved by this Committee and published alongside the Statement of Accounts.

## **2 What is the Annual Governance Statement**

- 2.1 The Council is required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 to prepare and publish an Annual Governance Statement, in order to report publicly on the extent to which we comply with our own Local Code of Corporate Governance, including how we have monitored the effectiveness of our arrangements in the year and on any planned changes to our governance arrangements in the coming year.
- 2.2 The Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive are required to sign the Statement.

### **3 Methodology for compiling the annual governance statement**

- 3.1 The existing governance arrangements against the CIPFA/ SOLACE: 'Delivering good governance in Local Government framework – 2016 Edition' has been reviewed. The updated Local Code of Corporate Governance is being presented at this meeting to the Committee within Audit report AUD 19/05.
- 3.2 Assurance statements were obtained from Heads of Service to demonstrate how governance arrangements within their service meet the CIPFA/SOLACE framework for good governance.
- 3.3 Actions to improve the governance arrangements are detailed within the Annual Governance Statement and work undertaken towards implementing these actions will be regularly reviewed by the Internal Corporate Governance Group and this Committee.
- 3.4 The Annual Governance Statement for 2018/19 is within Appendix A of this report.

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**References:** CIPFA/ SOLACE framework: Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (2016 Edition)