

Report to: Audit and Governance Committee



Date of Meeting 21 November 2024

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A

Annual Government Statement (AGS) 2023/24

Report summary:

The Annual Governance Statement (AGS) is published as part of the Council's Annual Statement of Accounts and is reviewed and approved annually by the Audit and Governance Committee when approving the Accounts. It is then, on the same day, signed off by the Council's Leader and Chief Executive.

The latest statement has been included in the draft 2023/24 Accounts and published as draft subject to final approval in concluding the Accounts in January 2025 by this Committee.

In reviewing best practice and picking up on a recommendation from the Peer Review it is considered that more emphasis should be placed on reviewing the AGS including tracking the progress of any actions contained in it.

In recent training to the Committee details were discussed of the CIPFA's Position Statement: Audit Committees in Local Authorities which is deemed as best practice operation for audit committees. Under Financial and Governance reporting it states the Committee should be satisfied that the AGS properly reflects the risk environment, and any actions required to improve it.

The AGS statement itself outlines the process to produce the Statement and those individuals who have contributed and helped feed into this document to date. It is now coming to Committee for consideration. The final statement will be presented in the usual manner as part of the Accounts.

Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes ☒ No ☐

Policy Framework Yes ☒ No ☐

Recommendation:

To consider if the Draft Annual Governance Statement reflects the position of the Council, to review existing and new actions identified in the Statement.

Reason for recommendation:

This is being brought to the Committee as a separate report to raise the emphasis of this important document.

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Portfolio(s) (check which apply):

☐ Climate Action and Emergency Response

- ☐ Coast, Country and Environment
- ☒ Council and Corporate Co-ordination
- ☐ Communications and Democracy
- ☐ Economy
- ☒ Finance and Assets
- ☐ Strategic Planning
- ☐ Sustainable Homes and Communities
- ☐ Culture, Leisure, Sport and Tourism

Equalities impact Low Impact

Climate change Low Impact

Risk: Low Risk;

Links to background information

Link to [Council Plan](#)

Priorities (check which apply)

- ☐ A supported and engaged community
- ☐ Carbon neutrality and ecological recovery
- ☐ Resilient economy that supports local business
- ☒ Financially secure and improving quality of services

Financial implications:

No direct financial implications

Legal implications:

there are no substantive legal issues to be added to the report.