

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Governance	Governance Committee	Wednesday, 24 May 2023

Draft Annual Governance Statement

Is this report confidential?	No
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Is this decision key?	Not applicable
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Purpose of the Report

- To present to Committee for review the draft Annual Governance Statement for 2022/23.

Recommendations

- Members approve the Annual Governance Statement in draft form for inclusion with the draft statement of accounts.

Reasons for recommendations

- The Annual Governance Statement forms part of the Statement of Accounts. The Annual Governance Statement has been prepared in accordance with CIPFA/SOLACE Guidance and has drawn from evidence sources identified in the statement to reach its conclusions.

Other options considered and rejected

- No other options were considered.

Corporate priorities

- The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

Housing where residents can live well	A green and sustainable borough
An enterprising economy with vibrant local centres in urban and rural areas	Healthy, safe and engaged communities

Background to the report

6. The council is required to ensure that it has in place a sound system of governance, that it regularly reviews the effectiveness of that system and that it continuously seeks to achieve best value in service delivery. As part of that, the council is required to publish an Annual Governance Statement (AGS).
7. The Annual Governance Statement is developed alongside the Statement of Accounts but assesses the governance framework for the whole council and all of its activities. The form of the AGS and the approach taken to its development is based on guidance that is produced by CIPFA and SOLACE.
8. The guidance from CIPFA and SOLACE sets out that councils are obliged to Develop and maintain an up to date local code of governance consistent with the 'core principles' set out in the framework Review their existing governance arrangements against the framework Prepare a governance statement in order to report publicly on the extent to which the council complies with its own code on an annual basis including how it monitored the effectiveness of its governance arrangements in the year and on any planned changes in the coming period.
9. The annual governance statement is required to be signed by the most senior officer (normally the Chief Executive) and the most senior member (normally the Leader), but it is developed and owned collectively by senior officers and members.
10. The guidance states that there should be a review undertaken by a body, such as the Governance Committee, that has not been involved in the production of the AGS.
11. The statement has five sections: Section one: introduction Section two: the council's responsibility in producing an annual governance statement and the purpose of the annual governance statement Section three: the governance framework, and how the council complies with its local code Section four: how the council reviews the effectiveness of the governance framework Section five: reflects back and updates on the progress improvements identified in the previous AGS and improvements recommended to be taken in the coming period.
12. The full AGS attached at appendix A.

Climate change and air quality

13. The work noted in this report does not impact the climate change and sustainability targets of the Councils Green Agenda and all environmental considerations are in place.

Equality and diversity

14. The Annual Governance Statement includes reference to how we discharge these duties.

Risk

15. There are no risk implications addressed within this report. The Annual Governance Statement addresses in part our approach to management of risk. There are suggested improvements within the action plan to enhance this.

Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

16. No comments.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

17. Contained in the body of the report.

Background documents

There are no background papers to this report

Appendices

Appendix A Draft Annual Governance Statement – 2022/23

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