

AUDIT COMMITTEE – 7 JULY 2020

PART I - DELEGATED

9. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (AGS) 2019/20 (DoF)

1 Summary

1.1 This report enables the Committee to agree the Annual Governance Statement for inclusion in the Draft Statement of Accounts. heading of the report (if required)

2 Details

2.1 The *Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2019/20* (CIPFA/LASAAC) states that the preparation of an AGS fulfils the statutory requirement for a local authority to conduct a review at least once in each financial year of the effectiveness of its system of internal control, and that authorities should include an AGS reporting on the review in its Statement of Accounts. It also says that:

- The AGS should relate to the governance system as it applied during the financial year for the accounts that it accompanies;
- Significant events or developments relating to the governance system that occur between the year-end and the date on which the Statement of Accounts is signed by the responsible financial officer should be reported;
- Where an authority undertakes significant activities through group relationships, the review of the effectiveness of internal control should include the group activities

2.2 It is important that there is corporate involvement in, and ownership of, the process for preparing the AGS. Assurances have been sought from all service heads and other managers.

2.3 The AGS also takes into account the matters identified in the Internal Audit Annual Report for 2019/20.

2.4 The proposed AGS for 2019/20 is attached at Appendix 1.

3 Options and Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 The recommendation enables the Council to comply with the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011.

4 Policy/Budget Reference and Implications

4.1 The recommendations in this report are within the Council's agreed policy and budgets. The Council's commitment to good governance is included in its Local Code of Corporate Governance which is included in the Constitution.

5 Financial, Legal, Staffing, Environmental, Community Safety, Customer Services Centre, Communications & Website Implications Financial Implications

5.1 None specific.

6 Equal Opportunities Implications

6.1 None specific.

7 Risk Management Implications

7.1 There are no risks associated with the decision Members are being asked to make. Internal controls are designed to minimise the risks to the Council.

8 Recommendation

8.1 That, the Committee considers and approves the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) attached as Appendix 1, the 2019/20 AGS Action Plan attached as Appendix 2 and the Local Code of Governance attached as Appendix 3.

8.2 That, subject to any changes required prior to their signing, the AGS be included in the Statement of Accounts for 2019/20.

APPENDICES

- 1 Annual Governance Statement 2019/20
- 2 2019/20 Action Plan
- 3 Local Code of Governance

Report prepared by: Nigel Pollard – Interim Head of Finance