

**Name of meeting: CORPORATE GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE**  
**Date: 30<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022**  
**Title of report: DRAFT ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2021/22**

**Purpose of report.**

**To provide information about the (draft) Annual Governance Statement for 2021/22**

<b>Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?</b>	<b>not applicable</b>
<b>Key Decision - Is it in the Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports?)</b>	<b>not applicable</b>
<b>The Decision - Is it eligible for call in by Scrutiny?</b>	<b>not applicable</b>
<b>Date signed off by Strategic Director &amp; name</b>	<b>not applicable</b>
<b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director - Finance</b>	<b>20/09/2022</b>
<b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning Support?</b>	<b>20/09/2022</b>
<b>Cabinet member portfolio</b>	<b>not applicable</b>

**Electoral wards affected: All**  
**Ward councillors consulted: None**  
**Public or private: Public**  
**Have you considered GDPR? Yes**

**1. Summary**

- 1.1 Attached to this report is a draft Annual Governance Statement,
- 1.2 The Committee is asked to note the latest version of the Draft 2021/22 Annual Governance Statement prior to it being signed off by the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council, and to consider whether the issues raised reflect the state of the governance and control framework during 2021/22.
- 1.3 The Statement is a statutory requirement and accompanies the Statement of Accounts to provide readers with assurance about the governance and internal control environment.
- 1.4 As the Statement covers the period up until the Annual Financial Accounts 2021/22 are approved, there may be need for revisions to be made in the text to reflect the findings from the external audit and anything material in the intervening period.
- 1.5 The draft Statement has been reformatted and simplified this year.
- 1.6 The Statement is required to be available for public consultation for 30 days.

**2. Information required to take a decision**

- 2.1 The detail is contained within the draft Statement.

### 3. **Implications for the Council**

- 3.1 **Working with People** – None directly
- 3.2 **Working with Partners** – None directly
- 3.3 **Place Based Working** – None directly
- 3.4 **Improving outcomes for children**– None directly
- 3.5 **Climate change and air quality**- None directly
- 3.6 **Impact on the finances of local residents**- None directly
- 3.7 **Other (e.g., Legal/Financial or Human Resources)**- Although each of the sub categorisations above suggest no direct implications, the review of the effectiveness of the internal control and governance arrangements covers all aspects of the Council's operations, including elements of the above,

### 4. **Consultees and their opinions**

The Chief Executive, Strategic Directors, Service Director Legal, Governance & Commissioning, Service Director Finance, Head of (Audit &) Risk have commented on the draft Statement.

### 5. **Next steps and timelines**

- 5.1 A finalised version of the Statement will be considered by the Committee ahead of the approval of the Annual Accounts later in the year. The Action Plan will be revised and updated in responding to any significant issues identified. Monitoring will take place on the issues identified.
- 5.2 The Annual Governance Statement needs to be available for public comment, prior to its finalisation.

### 6. **Officer recommendations and reasons**

- 6.1 Members are asked to comment on the draft Statement, and to formally note it thereafter.
- 6.2 Members are asked to authorise the (as amended) draft version going next for public comment, which will be considered in drafting the final version. [Reasons: To ensure compliance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and CIPFA guidance - Delivering good governance in Local government]

### 7. **Cabinet portfolio holder's recommendations**

Not applicable

### 8. **Contact officer**

Simon Straker- Audit Manager (01484 221000 x73726)  
Martin Dearnley, Head of Risk & Internal Audit (01484 221000 x73672)

### 9. **Background Papers and History of Decisions**

Draft Accounts 2021/22.  
Annual Governance Statement 2020/21

### 10. **Service Director responsible**

Chief Executive