

**Report title: Draft Annual Governance Statement 2023/24**

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Corporate Governance &amp; Audit Committee</b>
<b>Date</b>	<b>28 June 2024</b>
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	<b>Cllr. Cathy Scott</b>
<b>Key Decision Eligible for Call In</b>	<b>Not Applicable Not Applicable</b>
<b>Purpose of Report</b> To provide the Committee with details of the latest version of the Statement for information and comment prior to formal approval in conjunction with the Annual Accounts later in the year.	
<b>Recommendation</b> To note the Draft Statement	
<b>Resource Implication:</b> None directly.	
<b>Date signed off by <u>Strategic Director</u> &amp; name</b>	Rachel Spencer Henshall - 18 June 2024
<b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?</b>	Kevin Mulvaney - 18 June 2024
<b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?</b>	Samantha Lawton - 18 June 2024

**Electoral wards affected:** All

**Ward councillors consulted:** Not applicable.

**Public or private:** Public.

**Has GDPR been considered?** Yes.

## **1. Executive Summary**

- 1.1 The Committee is asked to note the latest version of the Draft 2023/24 Annual Governance Statement, prior to it being signed off by the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council, which concludes that overall, the governance arrangements remain fit for purpose and to consider whether the issues raised reflect the state of the governance and control framework during 2023/24.
- 1.2 As the Statement covers the period up until the Annual Financial Accounts 2023/24 are approved, there may be need for revisions to be made in the text to reflect findings from the external audit and anything else material in the intervening period.
- 1.3 The Statement is a statutory requirement and accompanies the Statement of Accounts in order to provide readers with assurance about the governance and internal control environment in which they have been compiled and to which they relate.
- 1.4 The draft Statement has been compiled following the annual review of the effectiveness of the overall internal control and governance arrangements and draws on a number of forms of assurance which have been presented to various parts of the Council during the year, including many to this Committee (e.g. annual activity reports), being principally the Annual Report of Internal Audit, reports by the external auditor, Monitoring Officer and from the performance management framework.
- 1.5 The draft Statement highlights a number of what are termed 'Significant Governance Issues'. Several of the Issues from the 2022/23 Statement are brought forward in one guise or another, reflecting the wide-ranging nature of the issues and action required. Consideration has been given to a number of potential new Issues and three have been incorporated.
- 1.6 The actions and controls the Council is taking are contained within a recommended Action Plan. Since the final Statement will not be agreed until later this year, subject to the approval of this draft by this Committee, it is intended that the draft Action Plan will be the subject of internal monitoring, with reporting back to Executive Leadership Team and this Committee during the remainder of 2024/25. Any amendments made to the final version will be reflected in monitoring work should there be sufficient time to progress the action during the year.

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

- 2.1 The detail is contained within the draft Statement.

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

### **3.1 Council Plan**

The detail is contained within the Draft Statement.

### **3.2 Financial Implications**

None directly.

### **3.3 Legal Implications**

None directly.

### **3.4 Other (e.g. Risk, Integrated Impact Assessment or Human Resources)**

Although each of the sub categorisations above suggest no direct implications, the annual review of the effectiveness of the internal control and governance arrangements covers all aspects of the Council's operations, including elements of the above, either specifically, indirectly or on a commissioned basis.

- 4 Consultation**  
4.1 The Chief Executive, Strategic Directors, Service Director Legal, Governance & Commissioning, Service Director Finance, Service Director Strategy & Innovation, Head of Audit & Risk have commented on the draft Statement.
- 5 Engagement**  
Not applicable.
- 6 Options**  
Not applicable.
- 7 Next steps and timelines**  
7.1 The Draft Statement will be published together with the Annual Accounts at the start of July for the statutory period of public inspection. 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 the Significant Issues identified. Monitoring will take place on the draft issues identified. When a final statement is approved, this will be monitored.
- 8 Contact officer**  
Simon Straker, Audit Manager (73726, [simon.straker@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:simon.straker@kirklees.gov.uk))
- 9 Background Papers and History of Decisions**  
Annual Governance Statement 2022/23 & Action Plan
- 10 Appendices**  
None.
- 11 Service Director responsible**  
Steve Mawson, Chief Executive.