

**REPORT TITLE: ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2025/26**

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Corporate Governance &amp; Audit Committee</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>19 June 2026</b>
<b>Cabinet Member</b> (if applicable)	
<b>Key Decision Eligible for Call In</b>	<b>No</b> <b>No – Information report</b>
<b>Purpose of Report</b> To provide an Annual Governance Statement (AGS)	
<b>Recommendations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>That the draft Annual Governance Statement be approved</li> </ul> <b>Reasons for Recommendations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This amended version of the AGS identifies the council arrangements, and areas for improvement, in a revised format</li> </ul>	
<b>Resource Implications:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None from this report.</li> </ul>	
<b>Date signed off by Executive Director &amp; name.</b>	Rachel Spencer Henshall (3 June 2026)
<b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?</b>	Yes
<b>Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning?</b>	Yes

**Electoral wards affected:** all

**Ward councillors consulted:** none

**Public or private:** public

**Has GDPR been considered?** yes

**1. Executive Summary**

The Council has to produce an Annual Governance Statement as a compulsory part of its accounts. This draft Annual Governance Statement for the financial year 2025/26 needs to be formally submitted to the external auditor alongside the Accounts for 2025/26. A final version will need to reflect any significant findings by the external auditor and any other matters that have arisen up to the point of accounts finalisation.

- 2. Information required to take a decision**
  - 2.1 Is contained in the attached Annual Governance Statement.
  - 2.2 All local authorities are required to submit an annual governance statement alongside their accounts.
  
- 3. Implications for the Council**

Having effective governance is important to ensure that the council is able to successfully deliver its objectives.

  - 3.1 **Working with People**  
Not directly applicable.
  - 3.2 **Working with Partners**  
Not directly applicable.
  - 3.3 **Place Based Working**  
Not directly applicable.
  - 3.4 **Climate Change and Air Quality**  
Not directly applicable.
  - 3.5 **Improving outcomes for children**  
Not directly applicable.
  - 3.6 **Financial Implications**  
Not directly, but financial matters are addressed in the statement.
  - 3.7 **Legal Implications**  
Not directly applicable.
  - 3.8 **Other (e.g. Risk, Integrated Impact Assessment or Human Resources)**  
Implementation of actions should promote good governance.
  
- 4. Consultation**

There have been discussions with Executive Leadership Team and Executive Board.
  
- 5. Engagement**

As above
  
- 6. Options**

Not applicable
  
- 7. Next steps and timelines**

The document is a part of the formal final accounts
  
- 8. Contact officer**

Martin Dearnley Head of Audit & Risk.
  
- 9. Background Papers and History of Decisions**

AGS 2024/2025 : CGAC Report 30 January 2026

**10. Appendices**

**11. Service Director responsible**

Steve Mawson Chief Executive

Rachel Spencer Henshall Deputy Chief Executive/Executive Director for Public Health & Corporate resources

Samantha Lawton Service Director for Legal Governances & Commissioning

Kevin Mulvaney Service Director for Finance