

# **Regulation, Audit and Accounts Committee**

**20 July 2019**

**Part I**

## **Draft Annual Governance Statement 2018/19**

### **Report by Director of Law and Assurance**

#### **Summary**

The report advises of the requirements for the Annual Governance Statement 2018/19. It includes a draft Statement for approval at Appendix A. It reminds the Committee of the significant governance issues raised in 2018 in Appendix B. A new draft action plan is included at Appendix C.

#### **Recommendation**

That the draft Statement and Action Plan be agreed and recommended for adoption through the signatures of the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive.

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations require the publication of an Annual Governance Statement (AGS). This statement has been produced in line with the guidance issued in 2016 by CIPFA / SOLACE on best practice for developing and maintaining a locally adopted Code of Governance.
- 1.2 Corporate Governance is the process by which the County Council ensures that it is doing the right things, in the right way, for the right people, in a timely, inclusive, open, honest and accountable manner. It comprises systems and processes, cultures and values, by which the County Council is directed and controlled and through which we account to, engage with and lead our communities.
- 1.3 A Corporate Code of Governance was approved by the Governance Committee at a meeting on 12 September 2016.

#### **2. Summary of main actions**

- 2.1 The draft AGS for the County Council for 2018/19 outlines for the County Council:
  - the scope of governance responsibilities
  - the purpose of the governance framework
  - a description of the governance framework
  - arrangements for review of the effectiveness of the governance framework
  - Governance issues that need to be addressed.

- 2.2 Information is gathered from a number of sources, both internal and external. The information has analysed and the draft Statement was discussed with appropriate senior managers and then auditors. The Executive Leadership Team considered the wording of the AGS and the draft actions. The final stage is the presentation of the AGS to the Regulation Audit and Accounts Committee in July for consideration and comment, in line with the approval of accounts. If the Committee is satisfied, it is asked to recommend the adoption of the Statement through the signatures of the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive.
- 2.3 Updates on the main Governance issues identified in last year's Action Plan are attached at Appendix B. The Committee is asked to confirm its agreement that the 2017/18 action plan be closed, with any outstanding actions being transferred to the 2018/19 actions.

### 3. **Resource Implications and Value for Money**

- 3.1 None arising directly from this report.

### 4. **Risk Management Implications**

- 4.1 There are risks from services failing to deliver the outcomes from the Action Plan and individual directorates, the Executive Leadership Team and this Committee, monitor these risks.

### 5. **Equality Impact Duty**

An equality impact report is not required as the report does not have any direct customer impact. Any actions arising from the Statement that may have an impact on external customers will need to be informed by an equality impact report.

### 6. **Crime and Disorder and Human Rights Act Implications**

- 6.1 None arising directly from this report.

#### **Tony Kershaw**

Director of Law and Assurance

**Contact:** Charles Gauntlett, Senior Advisor – 033 022 22524

#### **Appendices**

A – Draft Annual Governance Statement and table of assurance, including actions.

B – Action Plan outcomes for 2017/18

C- Draft Action Plan for 2018/19

#### **Background Papers**

None