

## **Regulation, Audit and Accounts Committee**

**18 July 2022**

### **Annual Governance Statement Action Plan 2020/21 Update**

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

---

#### **Summary**

The Committee agreed the Annual Governance Statement 2020/21 in November 2021, which included planned actions to address identified governance issues. Progress on the actions is shown in appendix A for the Committee to consider.

#### **Recommendations**

That the Action Plan update be noted.

---

#### **Proposal**

##### **1 Background and context**

- 1.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations require the publication of an Annual Governance Statement (AGS) by the County Council.
- 1.2 Corporate Governance is the system by which the County Council ensures and gives assurance that it is discharging its functions in the right way, in a timely and accountable manner.
- 1.3 The Annual Governance Statement 2020/21 was agreed by the Committee in November 2021 and was subsequently signed by the Leader and Chief Executive. The Statement contains a summary of required actions.

##### **2 Proposal details**

- 2.1 An update on progress against the Action Plan for 2020/21 is attached. The Committee is invited to consider this progress and whether it requires further detail on any particular action for a future meeting. Most actions are now completed. The small number that are still ongoing will be incorporated into the next Annual Governance Statement's Action Plan if not completed by September 2022.

##### **3 Other options considered (and reasons for not proposing)**

- 3.1 Not applicable.

#### **4 Consultation, engagement and advice**

- 4.1 The external auditor was consulted on the draft Annual Governance Statement 20/21 and the auditor's comments were taken into account in the final version, which includes the items identified for the Action Plan.

#### **5 Finance**

- 5.1 Not applicable.

#### **6 Risk implications and mitigations**

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigating Action (in place or planned)</b>
There are risks from services failing to deliver the action plan	Individual directorates, the Executive Leadership Team and this Committee monitor progress against actions.

#### **7 Policy alignment and compliance**

- 7.1 The Statement is aligned with the Code of Governance.

Tony Kershaw

**Director of Law and Assurance**

**Contact Officer:** Charles Gauntlett, Senior Advisor, 033 022 22524,  
charles.gauntlett@westsussex.gov.uk

#### **Appendices**

Appendix A - Annual Governance Statement Action Plan 2020/21 update

#### **Background papers**

None