
Report to Regulation, Audit and Accounts Committee

15 January 2024

Annual Governance Statement Action Plan Update 2022/23

Report by Director of Law and Assurance

Electoral division: Not applicable

Summary

This report provides an update on the Annual Governance Statement Action Plan for 2021/22 and the draft Action Plan for 2022/23.

Recommendations

That the updates be noted.

Proposal

1 Background and context

- 1.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations require the publication of an Annual Governance Statement (AGS). A draft statement for 2022/23 has been produced in line with guidance issued in 2016 by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) / SOLACE on best practice for developing and maintaining a locally adopted Code of Governance. A Code of Governance was approved by the Governance Committee at a meeting on 7 February 2022.
- 1.2 Corporate governance is the process by which the County Council ensures and gives assurance that it is doing the right things, in the right way, in a timely and accountable manner. It comprises the systems, processes, culture and values by which the County Council operates and through which it accounts to its communities.
- 1.3 The draft statement was considered by the Committee in July 2023 and will be submitted to the Committee for approval alongside the financial statements, in due course. This report provides an update on the actions identified in the draft 2022/23 statement, together with an update from the previous action plan for 2021/22.

2 Proposal details

- 2.1 The 2021/22 Action Plan is attached as Appendix A and now shows that the majority of actions identified in that plan have now been completed.
- 2.2 The 2022/23 Annual Governance Statement draft Action Plan is shown as Appendix B. This provides an update on areas recommended for improvement.

While the AGS itself cannot be finalised at present, it is helpful to demonstrate progress against the actions at this stage.

3 Other options considered (and reasons for not proposing)

3.1 Not applicable.

4 Consultation, engagement and advice

4.1 The external auditor has been consulted on the draft Annual Governance Statement as part of the audit of accounts.

5 Finance

5.1 Not applicable.

6 Risk implications and mitigations

Risk	Mitigating Action (in place or planned)
There are risks from services failing to deliver the action plan	Individual directorates, the Executive Leadership Team and this Committee, monitor these risks.
There are reputational risks from a failure to adopt a comprehensive AGS and action plan	This plan is ready for approval and has the commitment of the senior leadership team who will be responsible collectively for its implementation.

7 Policy alignment and compliance

7.1 The Statement is aligned with the Code of Governance.

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Appendices

Appendix A - Annual Governance Statement 2021/22 Action Plan

Appendix B - Annual Governance Statement 2022/23 Draft Action Plan

Background papers

None