

Regulation, Audit and Accounts Committee

18 January 2021

Annual Governance Statement Action Plan 2019/20

Report by Director of Law and Assurance

Electoral division: Not applicable

Summary

The Committee agreed the Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 at its last meeting. The actions planned in the Statement are now shown in a new action plan table, attached as appendix A which will assist future monitoring by the Committee.

Recommendations

That the Action Plan 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. It is produced in line with 2016 guidance by CIPFA / SOLACE. A Corporate Code of Governance approved by the Governance Committee at a meeting on 12 September 2016 also informs the AGS's preparation.
- 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. It comprises the processes, culture and values by which the County Council operates and through which it accounts to residents.
- 1.3 The Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 was agreed by the Committee in November 2020 and was subsequently signed by the Leader and Chief Executive, as required. The Statement contains a summary of required actions at the end of each section.

2 Proposal details

- 2.1 The Action Plan for 2019/20 is attached for information, setting out the governance issues that need to be addressed. These have been identified in each section of the Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 and any outstanding actions from the 18/19 Action Plan have been incorporated into the new document. The Committee may use the action plan as a reference document to

monitor the achievement of the actions required by the approved AGS. Future versions will include a progress report against each action.

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 19/20 and the auditor's comments have been 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

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 the delivery of actions.

7 Policy alignment and compliance

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

Tony Kershaw

Director of Law and Assurance

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

Appendices

Appendix A - Annual Governance Statement Action Plan 2019/20

Background papers

None