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| DECISION-MAKER: | Governance Committee | | |
| SUBJECT: | Annual Governance Statement 2018-19 | | |
| DATE OF DECISION: | 29 th July 2019 | | |
| REPORT OF: | Chief Financial Officer | | |
| <u>CONTACT DETAILS</u> | | | |
| AUTHOR: | Name: | Peter Rogers | Tel: 023 8083 2835 |
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| STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY | | | |
| None | | | |
| BRIEF SUMMARY | | | |
| <p>The Accounts and Audit Regulations require that the Council develop and publish an Annual Governance Statement ('AGS'). The AGS reports on the extent to which the Council has complied with its Code of Corporate Governance, including how it has monitored and evaluated the effectiveness of its governance arrangements in the year and on any planned changes in the coming period.</p> | | | |
| <p>In accordance with CIPFA Guidance, Audit [Governance] Committees should review and approve the final draft of the AGS prior to the document being presented to the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council for signing.</p> | | | |
| RECOMMENDATIONS: The Governance Committee is asked to: | | | |
| | (i) | Review the final draft 2018-19 AGS (Appendix 1) | |
| REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS | | | |
| 1. | The Governance Committee has responsibility to provide independent assurance on the adequacy of the risk management framework and the internal control and reporting environment, including (but not limited to) the reliability of the financial reporting process and the annual governance statement. | | |
| 2. | This responsibility extends to receiving, reviewing and approving the draft AGS prior to the document being presented to the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council for signing. | | |
| ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED | | | |
| 3. | The production of an AGS is a mandatory requirement in accordance with Regulation 6 (1) (b) of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 and therefore no alternative options have been considered. | | |
| DETAIL (Including consultation carried out) | | | |
| 4. | The Committee will recall that at the meeting on 10th June 2019, Members were invited to comment on an early draft of the AGS. This is in accordance with CIPFA guidance which recommends that "the AGS is first reviewed by members of the Audit [Governance] Committee at an early stage to allow comments and contributions to be made. The AGS, which forms part of the Statement of Accounts, must be current at the time that it is published'. | | |

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| 5. | The only subsequent change to the draft document is the inclusion of confirmation of the Chief Internal Auditor's opinion for 2018-19 on Page 10. | |
| 6. | Subject to any further comments, the final draft of the AGS will be presented to the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council for signing | |
| 7. | As per the process adopted in previous years, and in accordance with good practice, the Governance Committee will be provided with a mid-year update report in respect of the status of the 'Planned Actions'. | |
| RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS | | |
| <u>Capital/Revenue</u> | | |
| 8. | None | |
| <u>Property/Other</u> | | |
| 9. | None | |
| LEGAL IMPLICATIONS | | |
| <u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u> | | |
| 10. | The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 require that the Council must each financial year conduct a review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control and prepare an AGS for approval by a committee or members of the authority. The AGS must be approved in advance of the relevant authority approving the statement of accounts. | |
| <u>Other Legal Implications:</u> | | |
| 11. | None | |
| RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS | | |
| 12. | Failure to develop and publish an Annual Governance Statement would mean that the Council did not comply with a statutory requirement. | |
| POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS | | |
| 13. | None | |
| KEY DECISION? | | No |
| WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED: | | n/a |
| <u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u> | | |
| Appendices | | |
| 1. | Draft Annual Governance Statement 2018-19 | |
| Documents In Members' Rooms | | |
| 1. | n/a | |
| Equality Impact Assessment | | |
| Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out. | | No |
| Data Protection Impact Assessment | | |

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| Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out. | | No |
| Other Background Documents | | |
| Other Background documents available for inspection at: | | |
| Title of Background Paper(s) | Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable) | |
| 1. | None | |