

Title: Annual Governance Statement 2023/24 – Final Draft

Committee: Audit Committee

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Report number: Z97

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1.0 Issue

- 1.1 Consideration of the final draft of the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for 2023/24.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are requested to approve the final draft of the Annual Governance Statement for 2023/24 for final sign off by the Leader of Council and Chief Executive.

3.0 Background/Options

- 3.1 The Audit Committee (ref 16 July 2024 Agenda Item No. 9) received the first draft of the AGS and resolved to instruct the Chief Executive to bring forward the final draft for members consideration following an opportunity for all members of the Committee to provide comments and input.
- 3.2 The Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chairman, invited members and substitutes of the Committee to feedback comments by 3 October 2024.

4.0 Arguments/Conclusions

- 4.1. The Chief Executive received comments/input from two members and presents a final draft to the Committee for approval for sign off by the Leader of Council and Chief Executive.
- 4.2. The final draft (Appendix 1) and Appendix 2 has been revised to take account of these comments (where appropriate) questions and answers from members at the last Committee meeting (amendments shown as italics). A summary of the comments of individual members are attached in Appendix 3 with the appropriate action taken by the Chief Executive in relation to the AGS. In addition to detailed comments and queries, the independent lay member concluded that the AGS draft demonstrated strong commitment to good governance.

5.0 Additional Implications Assessment

5.1 In the table below, please put Yes or No in each box.

Financial Implications No	Legal Implications No	Human Resources(HR) Implications No
Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) No	Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA) No	Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) No

6.0 Appendices

- Appendix 1 Annual Governance Statement (Final Draft) 2023/24
- Appendix 2 Progress against 2022/23 Actions
- Appendix 3 Summary of member comments and Chief Executive response

7.0 Background Documents

- Audit Committee 16 July 2024
- Agenda Item 9