

TITLE: ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2024/25 – FINAL DRAFT

Committee: Audit Committee

Date: 21 October 2025

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Report No: AA75

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1.0 Issue

- 1.1. Consideration of the final draft of the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for 2024/25.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1. Members are requested to approve the final draft of the Annual Governance Statement for 2024/25 for final sign off by the Leader of the Council and Chief Executive.

3.0 Background/Options

- 3.1. The Audit Committee (ref 15 July 2025 Agenda Item 7) 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 11 September 2025.

4.0 Arguments/Conclusion

- 4.1. The Chief Executive received comments/input from three Committee 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) and amendments shown in 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 continues to be clear and reassuring and his review did not identify any fundamental issues of substance.

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 2024/25 – Final Draft

Appendix 2 – Progress against 2023/24 Actions

Appendix 3 – Summary of member comments and Chief Executive response

7.0 Background Documents:

Audit Committee – 15 July 2025

Agenda Item 7