

Audit and Governance Committee

30 May 2019

DRAFT ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2018/19

WARDS AFFECTED

ALL

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

NO

1. PROPOSED DECISION

Members are requested to approve the draft Annual Governance Statement 2018/19

2. JUSTIFICATION FOR THE DECISION

- 2.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require all relevant bodies to prepare an Annual Governance Statement which reports on compliance with our Code of Governance and the approach taken to monitor its effectiveness.
- 2.2 The Council's Revised Code of Corporate Governance which was approved by Council in April 2017, has been reviewed in line with the revised CIPFA / SOLACE Framework Delivering Good Governance in Local Government 2016.
- 2.3 The final Annual Governance Statement will be presented with the Statement of Accounts in July 2019.

3. FACTS SUPPORTING THE PROPOSED DECISION

- 3.1 This Audit and Governance Committee as the body charged with governance is responsible for ensuring that the Council's arrangements for internal control, risk and corporate governance are appropriate and effective.
- 3.2 The preparation of the Annual Governance Statement is necessary in order to meet fully the statutory requirements of Regulation 6(2) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.
- 3.3 The Draft Annual Governance Statement for 2018/19 is provided at Appendix 1. It explains the processes in place within the Council to ensure that there is a sound system of internal control, risk and governance and reviews the effectiveness of the controls in place.
- 3.4 The Draft Annual Governance Statement has been produced by members of the Council's Primary Assurance Group based on the Governance Principles in the

CIPFA /SOLACE “Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework 2016”.

- 3.5 As part of this review process the Primary Assurance Group has monitored and reviewed progress throughout the year in respect of maintaining adequate arrangements to satisfy the full requirements of the Code of Corporate Governance.
- 3.6 The ongoing challenges which the Council continues to face are identified within the Statement, and the proposed actions to mitigate any potential risks.
4. RISKS
None
5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS
None
6. PREVIOUS APPROVAL/CONSULTATION
None
7. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS AND IMPLICATIONS THEREOF
 - 7.1 The proposed decision is to approve. The Council must issue a Statement which it is satisfied with.
8. APPENDICES
Appendix 1 - Draft Annual Governance Statement.

Cath Fogarty
Strategic Director of Corporate Resources

The Contact Officer for this report is Caroline Barlow, Corporate Services, Town Hall, Victoria Square, St Helens, WA10 1HP, telephone 01744 676885.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following list of documents was used to complete this report and they are available for public inspection for four years from the date of the meeting, from the Contact Officer named above:

Statement of Assurances
Good Governance Self-Assessment Database