

Audit and Standards Committee - Tuesday 12 December 2023

Annual Governance Statement

Recommendation

I recommend that:

- a. To approve the Annual Governance Statement (AGS)

Local Member Interest:

N/A

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive & Director for Corporate Services

Report

Background

1. The attached AGS has been prepared in line with guidance issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers (SOLACE) issued in 2016 and covers the following headings:
 - a. What are we responsible for
 - b. The aim of the governance framework
 - c. The governance framework
 - d. Review of how effective our governance framework is
 - e. Significant governance issues
2. Following on from the above, Annex 1 reproduces "The Annual Review of the Effectiveness of the Governance Framework including the system of internal control – 2022/23." This document has been instrumental in producing the AGS and details appropriate sources of assurance.
3. In recognition of the importance of the AGS, CIPFA /SOLACE guidance provides for the final document to be signed off by the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council following consideration by the Committee.

Equalities Implications

4. There are no direct implications arising from this report.

Legal Implications

5. The preparation and publication of the AGS is necessary to meet the statutory requirement set out in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

Resource and Value for Money Implications

6. There are no direct resource implications arising from this report. Significant internal control issues with specific reference to mitigation actions emanating from the Corporate Risk Register will need to be considered against the resources available and the Council's "appetite for risk".

Risk Implications

7. An inadequate Governance Framework can lead to loss of reputation and finance and external censure.

Climate Change Implications

8. There are no direct implications arising from this report.

List of Background Documents/Appendices:

CIPFA/SOLACE 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework – 2016 Edition including Guidance Notes
Annual Governance Statement & Annex - 2020/21
Staffordshire County Council Code of Corporate Governance – published 2022

Appendix 1 – Annual Governance Statement – 2022 / 2022
Appendix 2 – Report of the Corporate Governance Working Group

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