

**Arrangements For 2022/23 Annual Governance Statement****REPORT TO AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>26 January 2023</b>
<b>PORTFOLIO</b>	<b>Resources and Performance Management</b>
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**PURPOSE**

1. To inform the Audit and Standards Committee of the arrangements to provide assurance for an Annual Governance Statement for the financial year 2022/23.

**RECOMMENDATION**

2. That the Audit and Standards Committee approves the proposed process.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

3. The Audit and Standards Committee are required to approve the Annual Governance Statement.

**SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS**

4. There is a requirement under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 that as part of the annual accounts process the Council is required to review both its internal control and wider governance arrangements. It must also publish an Annual Governance Statement (AGS) to accompany the Council's Statement of Accounts.
5. Planning for the production of the 2022/23 AGS has now commenced. This will be in line with CIPFA (Chartered Institute for Public Finance and Accountancy) and SOLACE (Society of Local Authority Chief Executives) guidelines. The 2022/23 AGS incorporates the core principles, introduced in the 2016/17 AGS, into the body of the statement.
6. The assurance gathering process remains the same and is shown in Appendix 1. Heads of Service and specific Members of the Council will be asked to complete a statement of assurance supported by a governance questionnaire (example questionnaires are provided at Appendix 2 reflecting the seven core principles) which will be passed onto Management Team. The Chief Executive and Leader will consider Management Team and Member statements before agreeing the Annual Governance Statement for the authority. The main change in the questionnaire relates to the removal of questions around the Covid-19 pandemic.
7. Similarly, Liberata will also be requested to provide an assurance statement for those

services that they provide to the Council.

8. The 2022-23 AGS will then be reported alongside the Statement of Accounts.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION**

9. None

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

10. None

**DETAILS OF CONSULTATION**

11. None

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

12. None

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

**PLEASE CONTACT:**

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**ALSO:**