

Annual Governance Statement 2022/23

REPORT TO AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE



DATE	27/07/2023
PORTFOLIO	Resources and Performance Management
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PURPOSE

1. To present the Annual Governance Statement to the Audit and Standards Committee for approval.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That the Committee approve the Annual Governance Statement 2022/23 (Appendix 1).

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3. The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 states that the Annual Governance Statement must be approved by a committee or the whole Council. This responsibility is undertaken by the Audit and Standards Committee under their terms of reference, as those charged with governance.
4. It is an important source of assurance to the council and public that the council conducts this review to identify and accurately reports any issues of significant weakness in good governance which it identifies. It then has an opportunity to demonstrate that it will or has corrected these in an action plan.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

5. The production of an Annual Governance Statement is a statutory requirement of the Council. In January 2023 the Audit & Standards Committee was informed that the Annual Governance Statement would be produced in accordance with proper practice using guidance from CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) and SOLACE (Society of Local Authority Chief Executives).
6. All Heads of Service and key officers (Strategic HR Manager and Strategic Health and Safety Advisor) have provided signed Assurance Statements to the Chief Operating Officer and the Chief Executive in accordance with the organisational management structure. These have been supported by a control and risk self-assessment questionnaire. The Chief Operating Officer has considered his statements and signed an

Assurance Statement to the Chief Executive.

7. All Executive Members, Chair of Scrutiny, Chair of Development Control and Chair of Licencing were asked to complete a self-assessment questionnaire and provide a signed Assurance Statement to the Leader of the Council. This is expanded from previous years to include the Chair of Development Control and Chair of Licencing to get a wider view from members.
8. The strategic partner, Liberata is also required to submit a Certificate of Assurance covering the services they provide on behalf of Burnley Borough Council. This has been received and no issues have been reported.
9. This process allows the identification of the key elements of governance and internal control for incorporation into the Annual Governance Statement and is designed to assist the identification of significant control and governance issues. Where minor weaknesses in governance have been identified and actions to address these issues have been put in place.
10. Management Team have reviewed the Annual Governance Statement. The Statement was then signed by both the Council Leader and the Chief Executive as the final assurance to the public. These signatures will be updated once again as it is presented alongside the externally audited Statement of Accounts 2022/23.
11. There were no significant issues which were identified by the review. There were no significant issues to update from the previous years' statements.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

12. None

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

13. None

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

14. None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

15. None

FURTHER INFORMATION

PLEASE CONTACT:

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ALSO: