


**Arrangements For 2023/24 Annual Governance Statement**

**REPORT TO AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

	<b>DATE</b>	<b>14 December 2023</b>
	<b>PORTFOLIO</b>	<b>Resources and Performance Management</b>
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**PURPOSE**

- To inform the Audit and Standards Committee of the arrangements to provide assurance for an Annual Governance Statement for the financial year 2023/24.

**RECOMMENDATION**

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

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

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

**SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS**

- 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 Councils Statement of Accounts.
- Planning for the production of the 2023/24 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 2023/24 AGS incorporates the core principles, introduced in the 2016/17 AGS, into the body of the statement.
- The assurance gathering process remains the same and is shown in Appendix 1.

Directors, 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.

7. Similarly, Liberata will also be requested to provide an assurance statement for those services that they provide to the Council.

The 2023-24 AGS will then be reported alongside the Statement of Accounts.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION**

8. None

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

9. None

**DETAILS OF CONSULTATION**

10. None

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

11. None

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

**PLEASE CONTACT:**

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