

## Annual Governance Statement 2019/20

### REPORT TO AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE



<b>DATE</b>	<b>24/03/2021</b>
<b>PORTFOLIO</b>	<b>Resources and Performance Management</b>
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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 2019/20 (Appendix A).

#### REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3. The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 states that the Annual Governance Statement must be approved by a committee. This responsibility is undertaken by the Audit and Standards Committee under their terms of reference, as those charged with governance.

#### SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

4. The production of an Annual Governance Statement is a statutory requirement of the Council. The Annual Governance Statement was 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).
5. All Heads of Service and key officers provided signed Assurance Statements to the Chief Operating Officer and the Chief Executive in accordance with the organisational management structure. These were supported by a control and risk self-assessment questionnaire. The Chief Operating Officer considered his statements and also signed an Assurance Statement to the Chief Executive.
6. All Executive Members and Chair of Scrutiny completed a self-assessment questionnaire and provided a signed Assurance Statement to the Leader of the Council.

7. The strategic partner, Liberata also submitted a Certificate of Assurance covering the services they provide on behalf of Burnley Borough Council. No issues were reported.
8. This process allowed the identification of the key elements of governance and internal control for incorporation into the Annual Governance Statement and was designed to assist the identification of significant control and governance issues. Minor weaknesses in governance were identified and actions to address these issues were put in place.
9. 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. The AGS was reported to Audit & Standards Committee and approved in July 2020. These signatures have been updated again as it is presented alongside the externally audited Statement of Accounts 2019/20.

<b>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION</b>
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10. None

<b>POLICY IMPLICATIONS</b>
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11. None

<b>DETAILS OF CONSULTATION</b>
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12. None

<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>
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13. None

<b>FURTHER INFORMATION</b>
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**PLEASE CONTACT:**

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