

Annual Governance Statement 2020/21

REPORT TO AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE



DATE	07/07/2021
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 2020/21 (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. In January 2021 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).
5. All Heads of Service and key officers 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, updated to consider any impact of the pandemic. The Chief Operating Officer has considered his statements and signed an Assurance Statement to the Chief Executive.
6. All Executive Members and Chair of Scrutiny were asked to complete a self-assessment questionnaire and provide a signed Assurance Statement to the Leader of the Council.
7. 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.

8. 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. Minor weaknesses in governance have been identified and actions to address these issues have been 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. These signatures will be updated once again as it is presented alongside the externally audited Statement of Accounts 2020/21.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

10. None

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

11. None

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

12. None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

13. None

FURTHER INFORMATION

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