

Arrangements For 2021/22 Annual Governance Statement

REPORT TO AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE



DATE	27 January 2022
PORTFOLIO	Resources and Performance Management
REPORT AUTHOR	Salma Hussain
TEL NO	Ext 3152
EMAIL	salmahussain@burnley.gov.uk

PURPOSE

1. To inform the Audit and Standards Committee of the arrangements to provide assurance for an Annual Governance Statement for the financial year 2021/22.

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 Councils Statement of Accounts.
5. Planning for the production of the 2021/22 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 2021/22 AGS has been reviewed to incorporate 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.
7. Similarly, Liberata have also been requested to provide an assurance statement for those

services that have been transferred out.

8. The 2021-22 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:

Salma Hussain (Auditor) Ext 3152

ALSO:

Ian Evenett (Internal Audit Manager) Ext 7175