

Crawley Borough Council

Report to Governance Committee

22 June 2021

Annual Governance Statement 2020-2021

Report of the *Head of Legal, Governance and HR: LDS/170*

1. Purpose

- 1.1 It is a requirement of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 that all local authorities produce an Annual Governance Statement. The purpose of an Annual Governance Statement is to clearly set out the processes and procedures which ensure that:
- we are efficiently and effectively run;
 - our activities are transparent;
 - we are accountable to our residents.
- 1.2 It is a function of the Governance Committee to monitor and review the Corporate Governance of the Council including giving consideration to the Authority's Annual Governance Statement.
- 1.3 The Audit Committee retains overall responsibility for approval of the Annual Governance Statement as part of the approval of the Council's Annual Accounts.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Governance Committee considers the Annual Governance Statement 2020 -2021 and provides any comments for incorporation into the final version to be included in the Annual Statement of Accounts, which is to be approved by the Audit Committee in July 2021.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 3.1 To take into consideration any comments made by the Governance Committee on the Annual Governance Statement.

4. Background

- 4.1 We are responsible for making sure that our business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded, properly accounted for and used economically and efficiently.

We also have a duty under the [Local Government Act 1999](#) to put in place proper arrangements for:

- the continuous improvement of our functions
- the governance of our affairs which includes arrangements for the management of risk.

The Annual Governance Statement (AGS) explains how the Council has complied with the Governance Framework. It also meets the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 which require that the Council must, in each financial year, conduct a review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control and prepare an Annual Governance Statement for approval by a Committee or Members of the Council. The Annual Governance Statement must be presented to the Governance Committee for comment, in advance of the Audit Committee approving the Statement of Accounts.

- 4.2 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), in conjunction with the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE), has produced a framework for delivering good governance in local government. The framework guidance “Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework 2016” is used as a guide in compiling the AGS.
- 4.3 The Annual Governance Statement 2020-2021 is attached at Appendix A.

5. Background Papers

None.

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