

Crawley Borough Council

Report to Governance Committee

21 June 2022

Annual Governance Statement 2021/2022

Report of the Head of Governance, People & Performance: **LDS/183**

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.
- 1.2. It is a function of the Governance Committee to monitor and review the Corporate Governance of the Council. This report sets out the latest draft of the Annual Governance Statement 2021/2022 and Governance Action Plan 2021/2022.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That the Governance Committee:

Considers the latest draft of the Annual Governance Statement 2021/2022 and Governance Action Plan 2021/2022. Provides any comments for incorporation into the final version, which is to be approved by the Audit Committee on the 25 July 2022 and will subsequently be included in the Annual Statement of Accounts when agreed later in the year.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 3.1. To take into consideration any comments made by the Governance Committee on the Annual Governance Statement 2021/2022.

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.

- 4.2 The objective of the Annual Governance Statement is for the Council to summarise the extent to which we have complied with our own code of governance and met Regulation 6 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and the Accounts and Audit (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2021.
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 It should also be noted that the Southern Internal Audit Partnership (SIAP) is currently undertaking an audit of the Annual Governance Statement. The AGS has not been previously audited and although there have not been any significant changes to the process in which the AGS is collated, there has been a change to the designated officers. The key purpose of this review is to ensure that the AGS is produced in line with the CIPFA / SOLACE framework and that it is effectively reviewed prior to publication and sign off. The final audit report is expected at the end of June. Any actions to address issues identified and mitigate risk exposure will be incorporated in the final version of the AGS, before being presented to Audit Committee on the 25 July 2022.
- 4.5 The 2020/21 AGS did not report any significant risks or actions.
- 4.6 The latest draft of the Annual Governance Statement 2021-2022 is attached at Appendix A.
- 4.7 The Governance Action Plan for 2021-2022 is attached at Appendix B.

5. Background Papers

None

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