

Crawley Borough Council

Report to Governance Committee

13 June 2023

Draft Annual Governance Statement 2022/2023

Report of the Head of Governance, People & Performance: **LDS/202**

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 (AGS).
- 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 2022/23.

2. Recommendations

That the Governance Committee considers the latest draft of the Annual Governance Statement 2022/23 and Governance Action Plan and provides any comments for incorporation into the final version, which is to be approved by the Audit Committee on the 5 September 2023.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 3.1. To take into consideration any comments made by the Governance Committee on the draft Annual Governance Statement 2022/23.

4. Background

- 4.1 The Council is responsible for making sure that its 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. The Council also have a duty under the [Local Government Act 1999](#) to put in place proper arrangements for:
 - the continuous improvement of its functions
 - the governance of its affairs, which include 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 it has complied with its 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.

5. Draft Annual Governance Statement 2022/23 & Governance Action Plan

- 5.1. The draft Annual Governance Statement 2022/23 has not reported any significant risks or actions. The draft Governance Action Plan included alongside the AGS sets out the progress on the governance improvement areas identified as part of the AGS 21/22 review. There are 3 areas that have been carried over as part of the AGS 22/23 review, whilst we await the outcomes of follow up audits. Further areas may be added once the final Annual Audit Report and opinion have been agreed by the Audit Committee on the 21 June 2023.
- 5.2. Unfortunately, the publication date of the final Annual Audit Report and opinion, along with the sequencing of committees has meant that, on this occasion, the Governance Committee will be invited to make comments on the draft AGS ahead of the final version being agreed by the Audit Committee on the 5 September 2023, rather than at its meeting in June.
- 5.3. The latest draft of the Annual Governance Statement 2022/23 is attached at Appendix A.
- 5.4. The latest draft of the Governance Action Plan is attached at Appendix B.

6. Background Papers

None

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