

Crawley Borough Council

Report to Audit Committee

5 September 2023

Approval of the Annual Governance Statement 2022/2023

Report of the Head of Governance, People & Performance: **LDS/205**

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek member approval of the Annual Governance Statement 2022/2023.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That the Audit Committee endorse the Annual Governance Statement 2022/2023 as signed by the Leader and Chief Executive.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 3.1 It is a requirement of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 that all local authorities produce an 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.
- 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 is usual that the Annual Governance Statement is put before this Committee for its endorsement as part of a report on the approval of the Statement of Accounts. However, given the anticipated delay in completing the Statement of Accounts report for 2022/23, it was considered prudent to bring the Annual Governance Statement to the Committee separately for its endorsement.
- 4.5 The Draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS) and Governance Action Plan was considered by the Governance Committee at its meeting on the 13 June 2023. This was due to the publication date of the final Annual Audit Report and Opinion, along with the sequencing of Committees, the final Statement would be considered by the Audit Committee at this meeting rather than at its meeting in June.
- 4.6 The Governance Committee expressed its support for both the Statement and the Plan. A full copy of the Governance Committee discussion can be found in the meeting's minutes which can be accessed [here](#).
- 4.7 The Annual Governance Statement has been approved and signed by the Leader and the Chief Executive.
- 4.8 The Annual Governance Statement 2022-2023 is attached at Appendix A.
- 4.9 The Governance Action Plan is attached at Appendix B.

5. Background Papers

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015

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