**Report of Head of Law and Governance**

**To**

**GOVERNANCE AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**On**

**23 June, 2021**

# **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE REVIEW & DRAFT ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT – 2020/2021**

##### **SUMMARY**

1.1 The Corporate Assurance Manager has reviewed the Council’s level of compliance with its Local Code of Corporate Governance (Code). The results and areas for improvement are detailed in Table 1 and have informed the draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS).

* 1. The overall level of compliance is high, with no significant governance issues being identified.

1.3 In order to comply with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, the Council is required to prepare an AGS to accompany the Council’s Statement of Accounts. The proposed AGS for 2020/2021 is enclosed as Appendix 1.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

i) That the assessment of the Council’s level of compliance with its Local Code of Corporate Governance as high be accepted

ii) That progress with implementation of the areas for improvement identified from this corporate governance review be monitored by the Governance and Standards Committee

iii) That the draft AGS for 2020/2021 enclosed as Appendix 1 be subject to scrutiny by this Committee prior to approval

#### **BACKGROUND**

**Corporate Governance Review**

3.1 The structure of the Council’s Code complies with the guidance titled “Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework (2016)” produced jointly by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE)

3.2 The Code includes the carrying out of an annual review by the Corporate Assurance Manager of the Council’s level of compliance with its requirements with the findings being reported to the Head of Law and Governance and this Committee.

3.3 The methodology adopted by the Corporate Assurance Manager to assess the Council’s overall level of compliance is based upon the number of individual Code requirements fully achieved. The parameters stated below have been previously agreed by this Committee

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Level of Compliance | % Achieved |
| High | 85% + |
| Medium | 65 – 85% |
| Low | Below 65% |

3.4 As can be seen from Table 1, the Council has fully achieved 86 of the 91 requirements (95%) and therefore has achieved a high level of compliance.

**Table 1: Code of Corporate Governance Compliance Review Findings**

**Principle A: Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values and respecting rule of law**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ref | Code Requirement | Compliance Achieved | Supporting Evidence |
| A1A2A3A4 | Ensure that members and officers behave with integrity and lead a culture where acting in the public interest is visibly and consistently demonstrated thereby protecting the reputation of the CouncilEnsure members take the lead in establishing specific values for the Council and its staff and that they are communicated and understood. These will build on the Seven Principles of Public Life (Nolan Principles)Lead by example and use the above values as a framework for decision making and other actionsDemonstrate, communicate and embed the above values through appropriate policies and processes which will be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that they are operating effectively | YES YESYESYES | * Assessment of the Council’s ethical governance arrangements completed during 2020/2021
* Assessment of the Council’s ethical governance arrangements completed during 2020/2021
* Assessment of the Council’s ethical governance arrangements completed during 2020/2021
* Assessment of the effectiveness of the Council’s counter fraud arrangements completed during 2020/2021
* Registers of interests and gifts and hospitality
* Whistleblowing Code
* Codes of Conduct
* HR policies and procedures
* Agendas & minutes of Council meetings
* Ombudsman report to G & S Committee
 |
| A5A6A7A8 | Establish, monitor and maintain the Council’s ethical standards and performanceUnderpin personal behaviour with ethical values and ensure they permeate all aspects of the Council’s culture and operationDevelop and maintain robust policies and procedures which place emphasis on agreed ethical valuesEnsure that external providers of services on behalf of the Council are required to act with integrity and in compliance with ethical standards expected by the Council | YESPARTIALYESYES | * Assessment of the Council’s ethical governance arrangements completed during 2020/2021
* Assessment of the Council’s ethical governance arrangements completed during 2020/2021

***Area for improvement:*** ***Completion of Related Party Transactions Form by all Members by the stated deadline**** Assessment of the Council’s ethical governance arrangements completed during 2020/2021
* Assessment of the Council’s ethical governance arrangements completed during 2020/2021
 |
| A9A10A11A12A13 | Ensure members and staff demonstrate a strong commitment to the rule of the law as well as adhering to relevant laws and regulationsCreate the conditions to ensure that the statutory officers, other key post holders and members are able to fulfil their responsibilities in accordance with legislative and regulatory requirementsStrive to optimise the use of the full powers available for the benefit of citizens, communities and other stakeholdersDeal with breaches of legal and regulatory provisions effectivelyEnsure corruption and misuse of power are dealt with effectively  | PARTIALYESYESYESYES | * Constitution
* Decision making process
* Officer Guide to Decision Making during Covid-19
* Remote Meetings during Covid-19 Rules & Protocol
* Monitoring Officer’s statutory comments
* Compliance with statutory guidance

***Area for improvement:*** ***Completion of Related Party Transactions Form by all Members by the stated deadline**** Constitution
* Specific safeguards regarding the procedure to dismiss statutory officers
* JDs & Person Specs
* Assessment of compliance with the CIPFA statement on the role of the CFO completed during 2020/2021
* Constitution
* Decision making process
* Monitoring Officer
* Legal advice
* Codes of Conduct
* Assessment of the effectiveness of the Council’s counter fraud arrangements completed during 2020/2021
* HR policies & procedures
 |

**Principle B: Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ref | Code Requirement | Compliance Achieved | Supporting Evidence |
| B1B2B3 | Ensure an open culture through demonstrating, documenting and communicating the Council’s commitment to opennessMake decisions that are open about actions, plans, resource use, forecasts, outputs and outcomes, with a presumption for openness. If this is not the case, a justification for the reasoning for keeping a decision confidential will be providedProvide clear reasoning and evidence for decisions in both public records and explanations to stakeholders, being explicit about criteria, rationale and considerations used and will in due course ensure that the impact and consequences of these decisions are clear | YESYESYES | * Constitution
* Corporate Values
* MDC web site
* FOI publication scheme

 * Agendas & Minutes system
* Access to information provisions in the Constitution
* Agendas & Minutes system
* Decision making process
* Statutory officer comments
* Compliance with statutory reporting requirements
 |
| B4 | Use formal and informal consultation and engagement to determine the most appropriate and effective interventions/courses of action | YES | * Community engagement strategy & toolkit
 |
| B5B6B7 | Effectively engage with institutional stakeholders to ensure that the purpose, objectives and intended outcomes for each stakeholder relationship are clear so that outcomes are achieved successfully and sustainablyDevelop formal and informal partnerships to allow for resources to be used more efficiently and outcomes achieved more effectivelyEnsure that partnerships are based on trust, a shared commitment to change, a culture that promotes and accepts challenge among partners and that the added value of partnership working is explicit  | YESYESYES | * Community engagement strategy & toolkit
* Protocol of Member / Employee / Partner Relations
* Partnership protocols
* Protocol of Member / Employee / Partner Relations
* Partnership protocols
 |
| B8B9B10B11B12 | Establish a clear policy on the type of issues that the Council will meaningfully consult with or involve its community, individual citizens, service users and other stakeholders to ensure that service or other provision is contributing towards the achievement of intended outcomesEnsure that communication methods are effective and that members and officers are clear about their roles with regard to community engagementEncourage, collect and evaluate the views and experiences of the community, citizens, service users and organisations of different backgrounds including reference to future needs Implement effective feedback mechanisms in order to demonstrate how views have been taken into accountBalance feedback from more active stakeholder groups with other stakeholder groups to ensure inclusivity | YESYESYESYESYES | * Community engagement strategy & toolkit
* Community engagement strategy & toolkit
* Community engagement strategy & toolkit
* Community engagement strategy & toolkit
* Community engagement strategy & toolkit
 |
| B13 | Take account of the impact of decisions on future generations of tax payers and service users | YES | * Decision making process
* Officer Guide to Decision Making during Covid-19
* Agendas & Minutes system
 |

 **Principle C: Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ref | Code Requirement | Compliance Achieved | Supporting Evidence |
| C1C2C3C4C5 | Have a clear vision, which is an agreed formal statement of the Council’s purpose and intended outcomes containing appropriate performance indicators, which provide the basis for the Council’s overall strategy, planning and other decisionsSpecify the intended impact on, or changes for, stakeholders, including citizens and service users either immediately or over the course of a year or longerDeliver defined outcomes on a sustainable basis within the resources that will be availableIdentify and manage risks to the achievement of outcomesManage service users’ expectations effectively with regard to determining priorities and making the best use of the resources available | YESYESYESYESYES | * “Making Mansfield: Towards 2030”
* “Making Mansfield: Towards 2030”
* Service Plans
* Community engagement strategy
* “Making Mansfield: Towards 2030”
* MTFS
* “Making Mansfield: Towards 2030”
* MTFS
* “Making Mansfield: Towards 2030”
* Service Plans
* Community engagement strategy
* MTFS
 |
| C6C7 | Consider and balance the combined economic, social and environmental impact of policies and plans when taking decisions about service provisionTake a longer term view with regard to decision making, taking account of risk and acting transparently where there are potential conflicts between the Council’s intended outcomes and short term factors such as the political cycle or financial constraints  | YESYES | * MTFS
* Decision making process
* Capital programme
* Project management procedures
* “Making Mansfield: Towards 2030”
* MTFS
 |
| C8C9 | Determine the wider public interest associated with balancing conflicting interests between achieving the various economic, social and environmental benefits, through consultation, where possible, in order to ensure appropriate trade-offsEnsure fair access to services | YESYES | * Community engagement strategy
* Constitution
* MDC web site
 |

 **Principle D: Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ref | Code Requirement | Compliance Achieved | Supporting Evidence |
| D1D2 | Ensure that decision makers receive objective and rigorous analysis of a variety of options indicating how intended outcomes will be achieved and associated risks. This will ensure that best value is achieved however services are providedConsider feedback from citizens and service users when making decisions about service improvements or where services are no longer required in order to prioritise competing demands within limited resources available including people, skills, land and assets and bearing in mind future impacts  | YESYES | * Agendas & Minutes system
* Decision making process
* Officer Guide to Decision Making during Covid-19
* Options appraisals within reporting protocol
* Community engagement strategy & toolkit
* MTFS
 |
| D3D4D5 | Establish and implement robust planning and control cycles that cover strategic and operational plans, priorities and targetsEngage with internal and external stakeholders in determining how services and other courses of action will be planned and deliveredConsider and monitor risks facing each partner when working collaboratively, including shared risks | YESYESYES | * “Making Mansfield: Towards 2030”
* Constitution
* Committee work programmes
* Service Plans
* Agendas & Minutes system
* Schedule of key decisions
* Community engagement strategy & toolkit
* Corporate risk and opportunity management strategy
* Protocol of Member / Employee / Partner Relations
* Partnership agreements
 |
| D6D7D8D9D10 | Ensure arrangements are flexible and agile so that the mechanisms for delivering goods and services can be adapted to changing circumstancesEstablish appropriate key performance indicators (KPIs) as part of the planning process in order to identify how the performance of services and projects will be measuredEnsure that capacity exists to generate the information required to review service quality regularlyPrepare budgets in accordance with objectives, strategies and the long term financial strategyInform medium and long term resource planning by drawing up realistic estimates of revenue and capital expenditure aimed at developing a sustainable funding strategy  | PARTIALYESYESYESYES | * The Council’s Contract Procedure Rules (CPRs) & Guidance

***Area for improvement:*** 1. ***CPRs need to be revised to better align with the Procurement Strategy***
* “Making Mansfield: Towards 2030”
* Service planning process
* Pentana reporting process
* Service planning process
* MTFS
* Balanced budget
* Transformation Strategy
* MTFS
* Capital programme
* “Making Mansfield: Towards 2030”
* Transformation Strategy
 |
| D11D12D13D14 | Ensure the medium term financial strategy integrates and balances service priorities, affordability and other resource constraintsEnsure the budgeting process is all inclusive, taking into account the full cost of operations over the medium and longer termEnsure the long term financial strategy sets the context for ongoing decisions on significant delivery issues or responses to changes in the external environment that may arise during the budgetary period in order for outcomes to be achieved while optimising resource usageEnsure the achievement of “social value” through service planning and commissioning  | YESYESYESPARTIAL | * MTFS
* MTFS
* MTFS
* Council’s Procurement Strategy

***Areas for improvement:*** 1. ***Social Value toolkit needs to be used to support implementation of the Procurement Strategy***
2. ***Agree KPIs for Procurement Strategy***
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**Principle E: Developing the Council’s capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ref | Code Requirement | Compliance Achieved | Supporting Evidence |
| E1E2E3E4E5E6E7E8E9E10E11E12 | Review operations, performance and use of assets on a regular basis to ensure their continuing effectivenessImprove resource use through appropriate application of techniques such as benchmarking and other options in order to determine how resources are allocated so that defined outcomes will be achieved effectively and efficientlyRecognise the benefits of partnerships and collaborative working where added value can be achievedDevelop and maintain an effective workforce plan to enhance the strategic allocation of resourcesDevelop protocols to ensure that elected and appointed leaders negotiate with each other regarding their respective roles early on in the relationship and that a shared understanding of roles and objectives is maintainedPublish a statement that specifies the types of decisions that are delegated and those reserved for the collective decision making of the CouncilEnsure the executive mayor and the chief executive have clearly defined and distinctive leadership roles within a structure whereby the chief executive leads in implementing strategy and managing the delivery of services and other outputs set by members and each provides a check and a balance for each other’s authorityDevelop the capabilities of members and senior management to achieve effective leadership and to enable the Council to respond successfully to changing legal and policy demands as well as economic, political and environmental changes and risk by:- Ensuring members and employees have access to appropriate induction tailored to their role and that ongoing training and development matching individual and organisational requirements is available and encouraged- Ensuring members and employees have the appropriate skills, knowledge, resources and support to fulfil their roles and responsibilities and ensuring that they are able to update their knowledge on a continuing basis- Ensuring personal, organisational and system-wide development through shared learning, including lessons learnt from governance weaknesses both internal and externalEnsure that there are structures in place to encourage public participationTake steps to consider the leadership’s own effectiveness and ensure leaders are open to constructive feedback from peer review and inspectionsHold employees to account through regular performance reviews which will take account of training / development needsEnsure arrangements are in place to maintain the health and wellbeing of the workforce and support individuals in maintaining their own physical and mental wellbeing | YESYESYESYESYESYESYESYESYESYESYESYES | * Pentana reporting process
* Quarterly reports to Heads of Service and OSC on progress with performance of KPIs
* Performance Management Framework
* Transformation Strategy

* Performance Management Framework
* Corporate risk and opportunity management strategy
* Shared Services
* Protocol of Member / Employee / Partner Relations
* Partnership agreements
* People Strategy
* Protocol of Member / Employee / Partner Relations
* Regular Meetings between the CEO & Elected Mayor
* JDs & Person Specifications
* Constitution
* Scheme of Delegation
* Financial Regulations and Contract Procedure Rules
* Constitution
* CEO’s JD & Person Specification
* JDs & Person Specification
* PDRs
* Member assessment & development
* Mentoring for members
* Coaching & mentoring for officers
* Competency framework
* Induction programme for officers and members
* Compulsory MEL training
* Annual training and development programmes for officers and members
* Briefings on major service / legislative changes as required
* People Strategy
* Leadership Team
* Community engagement strategy & toolkit
* Transformation Strategy
* Change management toolkit
* PDRs
* Capability procedure
* HR policies and procedures
* Training and development plans
* People Strategy
* Health & Wellbeing Champions
* Health & Well Being Group
* HR policies & procedures
* Intranet publicity of initiatives
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 **Principle F: Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ref | Code Requirement | Compliance Achieved | Supporting Evidence |
| F1F2F3 | Recognise that risk and opportunity management is an integral part of all activities and that it must be considered in all aspects of decision makingImplement robust and integrated risk and opportunity management arrangements and ensure that they are working effectively Ensure that responsibilities for managing individual risks and opportunities are clearly allocated  | YESPARTIALYES | * Corporate risk and opportunity management strategy
* Annual report to G & S Committee

***Area for improvement: Implement outstanding strategic risk and opportunity register improvement actions**** Corporate risk and opportunity management strategy
* Strategic Risks & Opps Register
 |
| F4F5F6F7F8 | Monitor service delivery effectively including planning, specification, execution and independent post implementation reviewMake decisions based on relevant, clear objective analysis and advice pointing out the implications and risks inherent in the Council’s financial, social and environmental position and outlookEncourage effective and constructive challenge and debate on policies and objectives to support balanced and effective decision makingProvide members and senior management with regular reports on service delivery plans and on progress towards outcome achievementEnsure there is consistency between specification stages and post implementation reporting | YESYESYES (See Principle A)YES(See Principle E)YES | * Pentana performance management system
* Project management procedures
* Agendas & Minutes system
* Decision making process
* Officer Guide to Decision Making during Covid-19
* The Council’s scrutiny committees as detailed in the Constitution
* Agendas & Minutes system
* Training & development of members
* OSC annual work programmes
* Pentana reporting process
* Quarterly reports to Heads of Service and OSC on progress with performance of KPIs
* Constitution
* Relevant policies and procedures
 |
| F9 | Align the risk and opportunity management strategy and policies on internal control with achieving objectives | YES | * Corporate risk and opportunity management strategy
* Risk based audit planning
* Internal Audit reporting
* Assurance mapping of strategic risks
 |
| F10F11F12F13 | Evaluate and monitor risk and opportunity management and internal control on a regular basisEnsure effective counter fraud and anti-corruption arrangements are in placeEnsure additional assurance on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the framework of governance, risk and opportunity management and control is provided by the internal auditorEnsure that the Audit Committee is independent of the executive and accountable to the Council:- provides a further source of effective assurance regarding arrangements for managing risks and opportunities and maintaining an effective control environment- that its recommendations are listened to and acted upon | YESYESYESYES | * Corporate risk and opportunity management strategy
* Annual assessment of the effectiveness of the Council’s corporate risk and opportunity management arrangements
* Assessment of the effectiveness of the Council’s counter fraud arrangements completed during 2020/2021
* Annual report to G & S Committee by Corporate Assurance Manager
* Annual Governance Statement
* Constitution
* Terms of Reference of G & S Committee
* Compliance with CIPFA guidance
* Training provided
* Agendas & Minutes system
* Council resolutions
 |
| F14F15F16 | Ensure effective arrangements are in place for the safe collection, storage, use and sharing of data, including processes to safeguard personal dataEnsure effective arrangements are in place and operating effectively when sharing data with other bodiesReview and audit regularly the quality and accuracy of data used in decision making and performance monitoring | YESYESYES | * GDPR policies and procedures
* IT security policies and protocols
* Information Governance Group
* Designated Data Protection Officer
* GDPR policies and procedures
* IT security policies and protocols
* Information Governance Group
* Designated Protection Officer
* Data sharing agreements & protocols
* Data Quality policy
* Performance Management Framework
* Information Governance Group
* Data quality checklist
 |
| F17F18 | Ensure financial management supports both long term achievement of outcomes and short term financial and operational performanceEnsure well developed financial management is integrated at all levels of planning and control, including management of financial risks and controls | YESYES | * MTFS
* Transformation Strategy
* Integra
* Corporate risk and opportunity management strategy
* Designated Data Protection Officer
* Support from Finance Officers
* Decision making process
* Officer Guide to Decision Making during Covid-19
* Reporting process

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 **Principle G: Implementing good practices in transparency reporting and audit to deliver effective accountability**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Ref | Code Requirement | Compliance Achieved | Supporting Evidence |
| G1G2 | Write and communicate reports for the public and other stakeholders in a fair, balanced and understandable style appropriate to the intended audience and will ensure that they are easy to access and interrogateStrike a balance between providing the right amounts of information to satisfy transparency demand and enhance public scrutiny while not being too onerous to provide and for users to understand  | YESYES | * Agendas & Minutes system
* MDC website
* Agendas & Minutes system
* MDC website
* Compliance with Transparency Code 2015
 |
| G3G4G5G6G7 | Report at least annually on performance, value for money and stewardship of resources to stakeholders in a timely and understandable wayEnsure members and senior management own the results reportedEnsure robust arrangements for assessing the extent to which the principles contained in this framework have been applied and publishing the results of this assessment, including an action plan for improvement and evidence to demonstrate good governanceEnsure that this framework is also applied to jointly managed or shared service organisationsEnsure the performance information that accompanies the financial statements is prepared on a consistent and timely basis and the statements allow for comparison with other, similar organisations | YESYESYESYESYES | * Statement of Accounts published on MDC website
* Council Tax booklet
* External Audit’s vfm opinion

* Full compliance with Scheme of Delegation & Constitution in respect of approval process
* Annual Governance Statement
* Annual Governance Statement
* Compliant with CIPFA Code of Practice
 |
| G8G9 | Ensure that recommendations for corrective action made by external audit are acted uponEnsure an effective internal audit service with direct access to members is in place, providing assurance with regard to governance arrangements and that recommendations are acted upon | YESYES | * External Audit reports
* G & S Committee
* Compliance with Public Sector Internal Audit Standards
* Compliance with CIPFA’s Statement on the Role of the Head of Internal Audit
* Annual report to G & S Committee by Corporate Assurance Manager
 |
| G10G11G12 | Welcome peer challenge, reviews and inspections from regulatory bodies and implement recommendationsGain assurance on risks associated with delivering services through third parties and that evidence this in the AGSEnsure that when working in partnership, arrangements for accountability are clear and the need for wider public accountability has been recognised and met | YESYESYES | * Transformation Strategy
* Change Management Toolkit
* Annual Governance Statement
* Protocol of Member / Employee / Partner Relations
* Partnership protocols
 |

#### **Draft AGS**

3.5 Local authorities are required to prepare an AGS in order to report publicly on the extent to which they comply with their own code of governance which is consistent with the good governance principles in the revised version of the governance framework and accompanying guidance titled “Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework (2016)” produced jointly by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE).

3.6 The AGS is a valuable means of communication as it enables the Council to explain to the community, service users and other stakeholders its governance arrangements and how the controls it has in place manage the risk of non-delivery of planned outcomes.

3.7 The draft AGS for 2020/2021 is attached as Appendix 1 for scrutiny by this Committee.

3.8 The format of the AGS complies with good practice guidance from CIPFA and includes details of the changes to the Council’s overarching governance arrangements introduced in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

3.9 Position statements in respect of the implementation of the 2020/2021 action plan will be reported, on a quarterly basis, to this Committee.

#### **4 OPTIONS AVAILABLE**

Corporate Governance Review

#### 4.1 The option available is to either accept the findings from the corporate governance review or suggest appropriate amendments with reasons.

Draft AGS

4.2 The option available is for the Committee to agree to scrutinise the Statement prior to approval

**5** **RISK ASSESSMENT OF RECOMMENDATION AND OPTIONS**

Corporate Governance Review

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  **Risk** | **Risk Assessment** | **Risk Level** | **Risk Management** |
| Legal | The CIPFA/SOLACE governance framework would not be complied with unless compliance with the Council’s Code is assessed annually in order to inform its Annual Governance Statement | Low | This review ensures that the Council is fully compliant with the requirements of the CIPFA/SOLACE governance framework |
| Financial | There are no financial risks to the Council of the recommendations or options | - | - |
| Reputation | There are no reputational risks to the Council of the recommendations or options  | - | - |

Draft AGS

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Risk** | **Risk Assessment** | **Risk Level** | **Risk Management** |
| Legal | The Council’s statutory responsibility to fully comply with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 will not be met unless it approves an AGS in advance of approval of the Council’s Statement of Accounts | Low | Effective scrutiny of the proposed AGS will ensure compliance with its statutory obligations |
| Financial | Non-compliance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and proper financial practices could affect the external auditors opinion on the Council’s Statement of Accounts | Low | Effective scrutiny of the proposed AGS will ensure compliance with proper financial practices |
| Reputation | Non-compliance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 would need to be formally reported which could adversely affect the Council’s reputation for having robust and effective governance arrangements | Low | Effective scrutiny of the proposed AGS will preserve the Council’s reputation in relation to its governance arrangements |

#### **6 ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES**

6.1 The need to maintain robust and effective governance arrangements is fundamental to any Council as it endeavours to achieve its priorities.

#### **7 IMPLICATIONS**

(a) Relevant Legislation

 Regulation 6 (1) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 specifically requires that a relevant body shall compile an AGS. This review of the Council’s corporate governance arrangements is fundamental in informing the AGS.

(b) Human Rights

 The Human Rights Act 1998 is not engaged as no particular individual is directly affected by the decision

(c) Equality and Diversity

 An impact assessment has been completed and it concludes that the proposed actions are fair and equitable in their content and are not discriminative on the grounds of equality and human rights

(d) Climate change and environmental sustainability

 The proposed actions in the report do not have any environmental implications and have no effect on the climate

(e) Crime and Disorder

 There are no implications for crime and disorder

(f) Budget/Resource

 There are no implications

**8** **COMMENTS OF STATUTORY OFFICERS**

Monitoring Officer – Completion of the Annual Governance Statement is a statutory requirement which supports the Council’s governance arrangements.

Deputy Section 151 Officer – No specific comments

**9 CONSULTATION**

9.1 None

**10** **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

 None

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
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