



Derby City Council

Audit and Accounts Committee
19 June 2018

ITEM 13

Report of the Strategic Director of Corporate Resources

Draft Annual Governance Statement 2017/18

SUMMARY

- 1.1 Production and publication of an Annual Governance Statement is a statutory requirement.
- 1.2 The 2017/18 Statement reflects the on-going work within the Council to improve its governance framework.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To review and comment on the draft Annual Governance Statement 2017/18 at Appendix 2.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Approval and publication of an AGS by the City Council is a statutory requirement and provides evidence that the Council maintains high standards of governance and addresses significant shortcomings and risks.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 The Council is required by regulation 6 (1) (b) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 to publish an annual governance statement ("AGS") and approve the annual governance statement as required by regulation 6 (2).
- 4.2 The AGS should be prepared in accordance with "proper practices". Proper practices relate to guidance set out in the CIPFA/SOLACE publication "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework" and supporting guidance associated with this.

- 4.3 The 2016/17 Annual Governance Statement was approved on 19 December 2017, when the 2016/17 Statement of Accounts was approved. Because the AGS is live until the point of publication, the 2016/17 statement will have covered a number of governance issues that came to light in the period from 1 April 2017 to the date of approval of the AGS.
- 4.4 The 2017/18 statement has been written on the basis that the Council is currently reviewing its governance framework in light of the issues raised in previous statements, including the Public Interest Report and the s24 recommendation. The focus of the AGS is on the work being done to assess and improve the Council's governance framework, informed by the Corporate Improvement Plan.
- 4.5 The AGS has been drafted by a sub-group of the Council's Governance Working Group which consisted of the Head of Performance & Intelligence, the Head of the Audit Partnership and the interim Director for Legal & Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer. A number of Service Directors have contributed to the draft during its preparation. The process has been overseen by the Strategic Director of Corporate Resources, who chairs the Governance Working Group. The AGS was then reviewed by the Chief Officer Group on 5 June.
- 4.6 Approval of the AGS will take place, alongside the accounts, at the Audit and Accounts Committee on 31 July 2018. As the AGS has to reflect any significant issues that arise prior to its final approval, if necessary, subsequent amendments will be made to the draft document to reflect them and be reported to this Committee.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 None.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer	n/a
Financial officer	n/a
Human Resources officer	n/a
Estates/Property officer	n/a
Service Director(s)	n/a
Other(s)	Chief Officer Group

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Background papers:	CIPFA / SOLACE publication: Delivering good governance in local government – framework Appendix 1 – Implications
List of appendices:	Appendix 2 – Draft Annual Governance Statement 2017/18

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

1.1 None arising from this report

Legal

2.1 As detailed in paragraph 4.1 of the main body of this report.

Personnel

3.1 None arising from this report

IT

4.1 None arising from this report

Equalities Impact

5.1 None arising from this report

Health and Safety

6.1 None arising from this report

Environmental Sustainability

7.1 None arising from this report

Property and Asset Management

8.1 None arising from this report

Risk Management

9.1 The effective management of risk is a core principle of good governance.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

10.1 The governance framework underpins the achievement of the Council's objectives.

