

ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMPLETION OF THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR 2021/22

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive (and Section 151 Officer)

1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The attached report sets out the proposed arrangements for completion of the Annual Governance Statement for 2021/21. The final AGS will be produced and presented at the Audit Committee in September 2021 along with Annual Accounts.
- 1.2 The Statement will be prepared by the Corporate Governance Group which is chaired by the Deputy Chief Executive (and Section 151 Officer).
- 1.3 The Authority's corporate governance arrangements are summarised in the Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance. Levels of compliance with the Code are reviewed each year by the Corporate Governance Group to enable the Authority to measure its arrangements against the Local Code and identify areas where improvements are necessary as detailed in the Annual Governance Statement.
- 1.4 The proposed arrangements highlighted will enable the Council to clearly demonstrate the current Authority position and help to identify the proposed further remedial action required to attain full compliance with the Local Code.
- 1.5 In addition, this year, there is sector wide acknowledgement that the Covid-19 pandemic has changed Council governance arrangements whether temporarily or permanently. Consequently, Cipfa have developed guidance on completion of the next Annual Governance Statement.
- 1.6 This guidance concerns the impact of the continuing Covid-19 pandemic on governance in local government bodies and the requirements of the Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework 2016 CIPFA and Solace (the Framework). It also takes into account the introduction of the CIPFA Financial Management Code 2019 (FM Code) during 2020/21.
- 1.7 The guidance is particularly relevant for the annual review of the system of internal control and publication of the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) that are requirements under the regulations issued by the national governments of the UK.

2 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Audit Committee is asked to approve the process for completion of the Statement.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Local Code of Corporate Governance - Stockport's Code of Governance.

Cipfa Bulletin 06 - <https://www.cipfa.org/policy-and-guidance/cipfa-bulletins/cipfa-bulletin-06-application-of-the-good-governance-framework-202021>

Anyone wishing to inspect the above background papers or requiring further information should contact John Pearsall on telephone number Tel: 0161 474 4033 or alternatively email john.pearsall@stockport.gov.uk

3 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Audit Committee is asked to note the contents of the report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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