

ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMPLETION OF THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR 2024/25

Report of the Director of Finance (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 2024/25. The final AGS will be produced and presented at the Audit Committee along with the Annual Statement of Accounts.
- 1.2 The Statement will be prepared by the Assistant Director – Governance (Monitoring 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 The process will once again take into account current and most recent requirements of the Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework 2016 CIPFA and Solace (the Framework). Furthermore, guidance will be reviewed and changes made where necessary, following the current consultation on updated guidance on the annual review and preparation of an annual governance statement. This consultation has only recently closed on 10th March (attached as an appendix).
- 1.6 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.

<https://www.cipfa.org/policy-and-guidance/consultations/consultation-on-updated-guidance-on-the-annual-review>

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

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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