



FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, 16 JULY 2024

Report of the Director of Finance

Annual Governance Statement 2023/24

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This paper introduces the draft Annual Governance Statement in respect of the financial year 2023/24 for the Committee's consideration and approval prior to inclusion in the Council's statutory accounts.

2. Information and Analysis

- 2.1 The Council is required to produce a statement describing its corporate governance arrangements.
- 2.2 Corporate governance includes the systems, processes, and values by which councils operate and through which they engage with, and are held accountable to, their communities and stakeholders.
- 2.3 The Council's Governance Group, chaired by the Executive Director Corporate Services and Transformation, has reviewed the proposed Statement and associated action plan.
- 2.4 The process undertaken by the Council to prepare the annual statement included: -
- Reviewing the Council's governance arrangements against the CIPFA / Solace Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework

- Assessing the effectiveness of arrangements against the Local Code of Corporate Governance
- Obtaining assurance from each Executive Director on governance arrangements in their area of delegation
- Considering the impact of external assessments, and
- Monitoring and reporting on progress against the recommendations contained within the Annual Governance Statement included in the 2022/23 Statutory Accounts

2.5 The proposed Statement includes an updated action plan for implementation in 2024/25. Progress towards implementing these actions will be reported to the Committee in accordance with the standing agenda timetable.

3. Consultation

3.1 Not applicable

4. Alternative Options Considered

4.1 Not applicable, the Council is required to produce this statement as a function of good governance arrangements and to form part of its Statutory Accounts for the Financial Year

5. Implications

5.1 Appendix 1 sets out the relevant implications considered in the preparation of the report.

6. Background Papers

6.1 Held by the Assistance Director of Finance.

7. Appendices

7.1 Appendix 1 – Implications

8. Recommendation(s)

That Committee:

- a) Considers and approves the Annual Governance Statement for inclusion in the Councils Statutory Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2024

- b) Notes the associated action plan for implementation during the financial year 2024/25

9. Reasons for Recommendation(s)

- 9.1 To ensure the Council complies with the requirements placed upon it to report on its Governance arrangements.

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Implications

Financial

1.1 None

Legal

2.1 The Council is legally required under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 to publish an Annual Governance Statement.

Human Resources

3.1 None

Information Technology

4.1 None

Equalities Impact

5.1 None

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

6.1 None

Other (for example, Health and Safety, Environmental, Sustainability, Property and Asset Management, Risk Management and Safeguarding)

7.1 None