

**Public
Key Decision - No**

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Approval for Publication of the 2020/21 Annual Governance Statement

Meeting/Date: Corporate Governance Committee –
27th April 2022

Executive Portfolio: Executive Councillor for Strategic Resource -
Councillor J A Gray

Report by: Deborah Moss, Internal Audit Manager

Ward(s) affected: All Wards

Executive Summary:

The Council is required by statute to produce an Annual Governance Statement (AGS, **Appendix A**).

Amendment has been made to the previously approved AGS to include an:

- internal audit report & governance issue in respect of Contractor Management.
- alternative heading of 'Other Governance Issues We Have Identified'.

Amendments are highlighted in blue for easy reference. All other wording remains the same as the previously approved version.

Recommendation:

Approve the amended Annual Governance Statement (Appendix A) and authorise the Executive Leader and Managing Director to sign the Statement on behalf of the Council.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To complete the processes for finalising and publishing the Council's Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for 2020/21.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Corporate Governance Committee is designated as 'those charged with governance' and consequently it is required to approve the AGS prior to publication by the statutory deadline 1st August.

3. APPROVE THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

- 3.1 The Committee, on behalf of the Council, is required to review once a year the effectiveness of its system of internal control and following that review approve the AGS. The AGS will be published alongside the Annual Financial Report (AFR) and is shown at **Appendix A**.

The draft AGS was previously circulated to CGC members and was approved in July 2021.

An amendment is now required for the inclusion of the internal audit report for Contract Management (July 2021) and an additional governance issue arising from it. The internal audit report detailed 5 findings and actions (including 3 red rated ones) and highlights a governance issue. External auditors have stated that the AGS should be updated to reflect this.

- 3.2 External Audit also advised that these issues be headed as 'other governance issues identified' and not significant governance issues, which relate to VRM issues.
- 3.3 The amended version has been approved by our external auditors.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

- 4.1 The process that has been followed in preparing the AGS has been thorough and in line with statutory regulations.
- 4.2 The issues that have been identified for inclusion within the AGS are referenced within the statement and are a reflection of the current situation.

5. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED

Annex A – Annual Governance Statement 2020/21 (updated March 22)

CONTACT OFFICER

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