

## STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

AGENDA  
ITEM NO

## AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

25 JULY 2019

**10**

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>DRAFT ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (AGS) 2018/19</b>
<b>Purpose of Report</b>	To summarise Stroud District Council's corporate governance arrangements in place during 2018/2019.
<b>Decision(s)</b>	<b>It is recommended that Audit and Standards Committee RESOLVE to approve the Annual Governance Statement 2018/19.</b>
<b>Consultation and Feedback</b>	Senior Leadership Team, Monitoring Officer, Chief Financial Officer.
<b>Financial Implications and Risk Assessment</b>	<p>There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.</p> <p>Andrew Cummings, Interim Director of Resources and S151 Officer, Tel: 01453 754115 Email: <a href="mailto:andrew.cummings@stroud.gov.uk">andrew.cummings@stroud.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Risk Assessment:</p> <p>Failure to deliver effective governance will impact on the ability of the Council to achieve its vision, priorities and key actions. It is important to recognise that the purpose of the AGS is not just to be 'compliant', but also to provide an accurate representation of the arrangements in place during the year and to highlight those areas where improvement is required.</p>
<b>Legal Implications</b>	<p>Any legal implications relating to the Council's obligations regarding governance are set out in the report and the appendices.</p> <p>Patrick Arran, Interim Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer Tel: 01453 754369 Email: <a href="mailto:patrick.arran@stroud.gov.uk">patrick.arran@stroud.gov.uk</a></p>
<b>Report Author</b>	Theresa Mortimer, Head of Audit Risk Assurance (Chief Internal Auditor) Tel: 01453 754111 Email: <a href="mailto:Theresa.mortimer@stroud.gov.uk">Theresa.mortimer@stroud.gov.uk</a>
<b>Options</b>	There are no alternative options that are relevant to this matter.
<b>Performance Management Follow Up</b>	The AGS contains the Council's Action Plan – 2018/19. The Council will continually monitor progress against the Action Plan within 2019/20. Results will be summarised and reported to Audit and Standards Committee throughout 2019/20.

<b>Background Papers/ Appendices</b>	<b>Appendix A</b> Draft AGS 2018/19 <b>Appendix B</b> Revised Local Code of Corporate Governance (LCCG) 2018/19 <b>Appendix C</b> Council Wide Governance Assurance Map 2018/19.
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## 1.0 Background

- 1.1 In April 2016, CIPFA and SOLACE published 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework 2016 and this applies to Annual Governance Statements prepared for the 2018/2019 financial year. Guidance notes were also published to assist Council Leaders and Chief Executives in reviewing and testing their governance arrangements against the revised seven principles for good governance.
- 1.2 The Council demonstrates it adheres to these requirements via the publication of an AGS, which is signed by the Leader and the Chief Executive. The AGS is supported by a revised Local Code of Corporate Governance for 2018/2019 and the Council Wide Governance Assurance Map, which is in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1999, the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) / Society of Local Authorities Chief Executives (SPLACE) guidance – Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework 2016.
- 1.3 The key focus of the framework is on sustainability: economic, social and environmental and the need to focus on the longer term and the impact actions may have on future generations.
- 1.4 In response to the above, we therefore:
  - reviewed the existing governance arrangements against the principles set out in the Framework;
  - developed and implemented a refreshed local code of corporate governance, based on the principles, including an assurance framework for ensuring ongoing effectiveness; and
  - will report publically, via the Annual Governance Statement on compliance with our code on an annual basis, how we have monitored the effectiveness of our governance arrangements in the year and on planned improvement areas.