

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL
AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE
26 JANUARY 2021

AGENDA
ITEM NO
6

Report Title	ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2019/20 IMPROVEMENT PLAN – PROGRESS REPORT			
Purpose of Report	To provide assurance to the Committee that the improvement areas and associated actions identified as part of the annual review of governance arrangements operating within the Council, have been/are being addressed.			
Decision(s)	The Committee RESOLVES to note the progress made against the identified improvement areas.			
Consultation and Feedback	Senior Leadership Team, Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer with regards to the Annual Governance Statement 2019/20. Monitoring and Deputy Section 151 Officer with regards to the Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 Improvement Plan – Progress Report approach.			
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Options	There are no alternative options that are relevant to this matter.			
Background Papers	None			
Appendices	Appendix A – Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 Improvement Plan – Progress Report			
Implications (details at the end of the report)	Financial	Legal	Equality	Environmental
	No	No	No	No

1. INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Council is required by the [Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015](#) to publish an Annual Governance Statement, in accordance with ‘proper practices’ in order to report publicly on the extent to which we comply with our own [Local Code of Corporate Governance](#). This approach includes how the Council has monitored the effectiveness of our arrangements in year and on any planned changes to our governance arrangements in the coming year.
- 1.2 The Annual Governance Statement is signed by the Leader, Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service) and the S151 Officer and must accompany the Annual Statement of Accounts.
- 1.3 Members approved the Council’s Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 (including the Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 Improvement Plan) at the [29th July 2020 Audit and Standards Committee meeting](#).

2. MAIN POINTS

- 2.1 This report is the first update presented to Members on the Council's progress (detailed in Appendix A) against agreed actions from the Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 Improvement Plan.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The Council is required to produce an Annual Governance Statement under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. Through the [Council Constitution](#) and [the Audit and Standards Committee Terms of Reference](#), the Audit and Standards Committee has responsibility for review and approval of the Statement (including relevant Improvement Plans).
- 3.2 The Council's Annual Governance Statement 2020/21 is due to be presented to Audit and Standards Committee in July 2021, and will include a final progress report against the Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 Improvement Plan.

4. IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

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Risk Assessment:

Failure to deliver an effective corporate governance framework prevents the Council in directing and controlling its resources effectively and efficiently, to enable the Council's objectives to be met.

4.2 Legal Implications

There are no legal implications arising from the recommendations made in this report.

One Legal

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4.3 Equality Implications

There are no equality implications as a result of the recommendations made within this report.

4.4 Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications as a result of the recommendations made within this report.