

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL
AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

8 FEBRUARY 2022

Report Title	ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2020-21 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 or are being addressed.			
Decision(s)	The Committee RESOLVES to accept the progress made against the identified improvement areas.			
Consultation and Feedback	Internal Audit findings are discussed with Service Heads/Managers. Management responses to recommendations are included in each assignment report.			
Report Author	Piyush Fatania, Head of Audit Risk Assurance Tel: 01452 328883 Email: piyush.fatania@gloucestershire.gov.uk			
Options	There are no alternative options that are relevant to this matter.			
Background Papers	None.			
Appendices	Appendix A – Annual Governance Statement 2020-21 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 July 2021 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 2020-21 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.

Lucy Clothier, Accountancy Manager
Tel: 01453 754343 Email: lucy.clothier@stroud.gov.uk

4.2 Legal Implications

There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

One Legal
Tel: 01684 272203 Email: legalservices@onelegal.org.uk

4.3 Equality Implications

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

4.4 Environmental Implications

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