

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

7 FEBRUARY 2023

Report Title	ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2021-22 IMPROVEMENT PLAN – PROGRESS REPORT			
Purpose of Report	To provide assurance to the Audit and Standards Committee (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 review and consider the actions taken to address the governance improvement areas identified.			
Consultation and Feedback	Senior Leadership Team, Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer with regards to the Annual Governance Statement 2021-22.			
Report Author	Piyush Fatania, Head of Audit Risk Assurance (ARA) 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 2021-22 Improvement Plan – Progress Report			
Implications (details at the end of the report)	Financial	Legal	Equality	Environmental
	No	No	No	No

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND 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’. This is to report publicly on the extent to which the Council complies with its own Local Code of Corporate Governance. The approach includes how the Council has monitored the effectiveness of its arrangements in year and on any planned changes to governance arrangements in the coming year.
- 1.2 The Annual Governance Statement is signed by the Leader and Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service) and must accompany the Annual Statement of Accounts.
- 1.3 Members approved the Council’s Annual Governance Statement 2021-22 (including the Improvement Plan) at the [July 2022 Committee](#) meeting.

2.0 MAIN POINTS

- 2.1 This report updates Members on the Council's progress against agreed actions from the Annual Governance Statement 2021-22 Improvement Plan.

3.0 CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The Council is required to produce an Annual Governance Statement under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. Through the [Council's Constitution](#), the Committee has responsibility for review and approval of the Statement (including relevant Improvement Plans).
- 3.2 The Council's Annual Governance Statement 2022-23 is due to be presented to Audit and Standards Committee in July 2023. The report will include a confirmed final position against the Annual Governance Statement 2021-22 Improvement Plan.

4.0 IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Lucy Clothier
Email: lucy.clothier@stroud.gov.uk

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 recommendation made in this report.

Contact: One Legal
Email: legalservices@onelegal.org.uk

4.3 Equality Implications

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

4.4 Environmental Implications

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