

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL
AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

26 SEPTEMBER 2023

Report Title	Annual Governance Statement 2022/23			
Purpose of Report	This report brings forward the Annual Governance Statement for the financial year 2022/23, setting out the governance arrangements which have been in place and identifying areas of focus for 2023/24.			
Decision(s)	The Committee RESOLVES to: a) approve the Annual Governance Statement 2022/23; and b) note that regular reports on progress against the 2023/24 action plan will be presented to the Audit and Standards Committee			
Consultation and Feedback	Consultation with Strategic Leadership Team, the Corporate Governance Group and Internal Audit has taken place in preparing this statement			
Report Author	Claire Hughes, Corporate Director (Monitoring Officer) Email: claire.hughes@stroud.gov.uk			
Options	There are no alternative options that are relevant to this matter			
Background Papers	Annual Governance Statement 2021/22			
Appendices	Appendix A – Annual Governance Statement 2022/23 Appendix B – Action Plan			
Implications (further details at the end of the report)	Financial	Legal	Equality	Environmental
	No	Yes	No	No

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Council has a statutory duty to prepare an Annual Governance Statement (AGS) to be approved as part of the Annual Statement of Accounts.
- 1.2 This is the first draft of the AGS is for the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023 and indicates how the Council is meeting the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 in relation to the publication of a Statement on Annual Governance.
- 1.3 In discharging these responsibilities, the authority is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs, facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, and including arrangements for the management of risk.
- 1.4 The authority has developed and approved a code of corporate governance, which is consistent with the core principles and sub-principles as set out in the CIPFA/SOLACE “Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (2016)” (‘the Framework’). This statement explains how the authority has complied with the code and also meets the requirements of Regulation 6(1)(a) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (England) which requires the authority to conduct a review at least once a year on the effectiveness of its system of internal control and include a statement reporting on the review with any published Statement of Accounts.

1.5 The Audit and Standards Committee needs to satisfy itself that the AGS fairly reflects the arrangements within the Council.

2. CONCLUSION

2.1 The Audit and Standards Committee are to consider and approve the Annual Governance Statement, to gain reasonable assurance that the governance arrangements are operating effectively within the Council and that the improvement actions identified will be implemented and monitored accordingly.

2.2 Once finalised this AGS will form part of the Annual Statement of Accounts.

3. IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising directly from this from this report.

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3.2 Legal Implications

As detailed in the report, to evaluate good governance in practice, there is a statutory requirement under Regulation 6(1) of the Accounts and Audit England Regulations 2015 for the Council to conduct a review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control and prepare and publish an annual governance statement.

The CIPFA/ Solace Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework defines the principles that should underpin the governance of a local authority and provides a structure to help local authorities with their approach to governance.

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3.3 Equality Implications

There are not any specific changes to service delivery proposed within this decision.

3.4 Environmental Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.