

# **Somerset West and Taunton Council**

## **Audit, Governance and Standards Committee – 31 July 2019**

### **Annual Governance Statements 2018/19**

**Responsibility: Leader of the Council, Cllr Federica Smith-Roberts**

**Report Author: Amy Tregellas, Governance Manager**

#### **1 Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 To provide the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee with an update on the 2018/19 Annual Governance Statements since they were approved in March 2019.

#### **2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Committee notes the Annual Governance Statements for 2018/19

#### **3 Risk Assessment**

- 3.1 No significant risks have been identified in respect of this report.

#### **4 The Annual Governance Statement (AGS)**

- 4.1 Local authorities are required to prepare an Annual Government Statement (AGS) to be transparent about their compliance with good governance principles.
- 4.2 The Corporate Governance Officers Group led the 2018/19 review of the governance framework. The group included the Head of Performance and Governance, the Monitoring Officer, the Section 151 Officer, the Internal Audit Manager, and the Corporate Strategy & Performance Manager.
- 4.3 The conclusions from this review are that overall the Council's governance framework is reasonable and fit for purpose.
- 4.4 Normally the Annual Governance Statement is approved at the same time as the annual statement of accounts. However the legislation supporting the creation of the new Somerset West and Taunton Council required Taunton Deane Borough Council (TDBC) and West Somerset Council (WSC) to approve their AGS by 31 March 2019. The AGS for TDBC was approved by the Corporate Governance

Committee on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019. The AGS for WSC was approved by the Audit Committee on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019. Both Statements are attached as appendices to this report. Following Committee approval the Chief Executive Officer and Leader of the Council signed off the Statements, as per the legislative requirements.

4.5 At the meetings on the 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019 it was confirmed that the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee would be advised of any significant matters in the period between the approval of the AGS in March and the approval of the Statement of Accounts in July 2019.

4.6 There are no significant matters that have arisen since the approval of the statements in March 2019. Therefore it is recommended that the Committee note the Annual Governance Statements.

## **5 Links to Corporate Aims / Priorities**

None in respect of this report.

## **6 Finance / Resource Implications**

None in respect of this report.

## **7 Legal Implications**

7.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require councils to undertake an annual review of their governance. The Regulations require that an Annual Governance Statement prepared to fulfil this requirement should form part of the Council's Statement of Accounts. The report is therefore coming to the Committee to meet this purpose and that timescale. The Regulations also state that the Annual Governance Statement should be prepared in accordance with proper practices. Compliance with the CIPFA guidance *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (2016)* fulfils this requirement.

## **8 Environmental Impact Implications**

8.1.1 None in respect of this report.

## **9 Safeguarding and/or Community Safety Implications**

9.1 None in respect of this report.

## **10 Equality and Diversity Implications**

10.1 There are no equality and diversity implications associated with this report.

## **11 Social Value Implications**

11.1 There are no Social Value implications associated with this report.

## **12 Partnership Implications**

12.1 None associated with this report.

## **13 Health and Wellbeing Implications**

13.1 None associated with this report.

## **14 Asset Management Implications**

14.1 None associated with this report.

## **15 Consultation Implications**

15.1 The Annual Governance Statement has been developed by the Corporate Governance Officers Group which includes the Head of Performance and Governance, the Monitoring Officer, the S151 officer, the Internal Audit Manager and the Corporate Strategy and Performance Officer.

### **Democratic Path:**

- **Audit Committee – Yes**
- **Scrutiny – No**
- **Cabinet – No**
- **Full Council – No**

**Reporting Frequency: Annually**

### **List of Appendices**

Appendix A	Annual Governance Statement 2018/19 for TDBC
Appendix B	Annual Governance Statement 2018/19 for WSC

### **Contact Officers**

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