

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE – 20 NOVEMBER 2017

Title:

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2017/2018

[Wards Affected: N/A]

Summary and purpose:

The purpose of this report is for the Audit Committee to consider governance progress in relation to informing the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for the year ended 31 March 2018.

How this report relates to the Council's Corporate Priorities:

The aim of the AGS is to ensure that, in achieving the Council's corporate priorities, Waverley acts in the public interest at all times.

Equality and Diversity Implications:

There are no implications arising from this report. The Annual Governance Statement can be provided in larger print if required.

Resource and legal implications:

There are no direct resource implications resulting from the Annual Governance Statement for 2017/2018.

Introduction

1. The Annual Governance Statement is produced alongside the annual Statement of Accounts and reports publicly on how the Council has complied with the governance code, 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework' published by CIPFA/SOLACE, and describes any governance issues, including how they will be addressed.
2. Each year the Council is required to produce an AGS which describes how its corporate governance arrangements have been working over the year and comprises the arrangements put in place to ensure that the Council achieves its objectives while acting in the public interest at all times.
3. The AGS is required to be signed by the Leader of the Council and the Executive Director on behalf of the Council and then approved by a delegated committee.
4. The AGS will be included with the Statement of Accounts as part of the Annual Financial Report for 2017/2018.

5. At the meeting on 24 July 2017 a number of members of the Committee raised several issues to test against the principles set out in the AGS to identify any governance issues that should be identified in the AGS according to the Code of Practice.
6. The Committee minuted that for any issues in the public domain, it was important to show that they had been acknowledged and dealt with even if they weren't all necessarily governance issues. Iain Murray added, from an external audit perspective, that the bar of what needed to be included in the AGS was set very high so there was no specific requirement to include the issues that had been discussed by the Committee, however this didn't prevent the Committee from reviewing such areas. He also reminded the Committee that their remit was risk and assurance, and therefore these were the areas that needed to be focused on when reviewing issues.
7. The Committee felt that it would be useful to review potential governance issues at Audit Committee meetings throughout the year so that they could inform the AGS next year.
8. The AGS is included with the Agenda as a separate document at Annexe 1.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Audit Committee;

1. Reviews the 2016/17 Annual Governance Statement and pass comment for development of the 2017/18 statement;
2. Identifies and considers any internal governance issues; and
3. Considers any issues in the public domain from a governance perspective.

Background Papers

There are no background papers (as defined by Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) relating to this report.

CONTACT OFFICER:

Name: Vicki Basley

Telephone: 01483 523250

E-mail: victoria.basley@waverley.gov.uk