

ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO AND DECISION OF AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE ON 22 FEBRUARY 2022

REPORT

SUBJECT: Final Annual Governance Statement 2020/21

REPORT AUTHOR: Stephen Pearse, Internal Audit Manager

DATE: January 2022

EXTN: 37561

AREA: Corporate Support

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

To present the final Annual Governance Statement for 2020/21 to the Committee for approval.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Members of the Audit & Governance Committee are requested to approve the final version of the Council's Annual Governance Statement for 2020/21

1. BACKGROUND:

1.1 BACKGROUND

The Council is required by the Accounts & Audit Regulations 2015 to produce and approve an Annual Governance Statement, to accompany the annual accounting statements.

The draft Annual Governance Statement was presented to the Committee and noted at its July 2021 meeting and provided to the Council's external auditors. The final version is presented for approval by the Committee at this special meeting considering the audited Accounts.

As members will be aware there has been a delay in the external audit being undertaken. In view of the longer than normal period between the draft and final versions of the AGS being presented to the Committee, some minor updates have been made. These are highlighted (in grey) – principally page 2 regarding the delay to the audit of the Accounts and pages 21-23 where updates have been included on some items now beyond the target dates included in the draft document.

The document is signed by the Interim Chief Executive Officer and the Leader of the Council and the approved version will accompany the Annual Accounts of the Council which will be published on the Council's website.

2. PROPOSAL(S):		
It is proposed that the Committee approves the final version of the Council's Annual Governance Statement for 2020/21		
3. OPTIONS:		
N/A		
4. CONSULTATION:		
In preparing the AGS, input was requested from the management of various service areas and the document was considered and agreed by the Council's Governance & Risk Group.		
Where appropriate, updates have also been obtained from management for the final version of the document.		
Has consultation been undertaken with:	YES	NO
Relevant Town/Parish Council		✓
Relevant District Ward Councillors		✓
Other groups/persons (please specify)		✓
5. ARE THERE ANY IMPLICATIONS IN RELATION TO THE FOLLOWING COUNCIL POLICIES: (Explain in more detail at 6 below)	YES	NO
Financial		✓
Legal		✓
Human Rights/Equality Impact Assessment		✓
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime & Disorder Act		✓
Sustainability		✓
Asset Management/Property/Land		✓
Technology		✓
Other (please explain)		✓
6. IMPLICATIONS:		
N/A		

7. REASON FOR THE DECISION:
The Council's Annual Governance Statement is required to be approved by the Committee to accompany the audited Annual Accounts

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:
The draft version was presented to the Committee and noted at its meeting held on 29 July 2021 (item / minute 205):

