

# Arun District Council

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>Audit &amp; Governance Committee 3 December 2024</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Final Annual Governance Statement 2023/24</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<b>Stephen Pearse, Internal Audit Manager</b>
<b>LEAD MEMBER:</b>	<b>Councillor Matt Stanley</b>
<b>WARDS:</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>CORPORATE PRIORITY / POLICY CONTEXT / CORPORATE VISION:</b> The Council is required by the Accounts & Audit Regulations 2015 to produce and approve an Annual Governance Statement, to accompany the annual accounting statements.	
<b>DIRECTORATE POLICY CONTEXT:</b> The Council's draft Accounts and the draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS) have been published on the Council's website and provided to the external auditors. The Audit & Governance Committee noted the content of the draft AGS in July 2024 pending presentation of the Accounts for approval by the Committee.	
<b>FINANCIAL SUMMARY:</b> n/a	

## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. To present the final Annual Governance Statement for 2023/24 for the Committee's approval.

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. Members of the Audit & Governance Committee are requested to approve the final version of the Council's Annual Governance Statement for 2023/24.

## 3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 3.1. This report presents the final Annual Governance Statement for 2023/24 which is required to accompany the Annual Accounts. The draft Annual Governance Statement was noted by the Committee at its July 2024 meeting.

## 4. DETAIL

- 4.1. 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 document is backward-looking, covering the period covered by the Accounts.
- 4.2. The draft Annual Governance Statement was presented to the Committee and noted at its July 2024 meeting and provided to the Council's external

auditors. It was also published alongside the draft Accounts on the Council's website. The final version is presented for approval by the Committee at this meeting which includes consideration of the 2023/24 Accounts as an agenda item.

4.3. The document is signed by the (then) Interim Chief Executive Officers 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.

4.4. Since the draft was noted, no significant governance issues which would affect the Accounts for the 2023/24 have been noted.

## **5. CONSULTATION**

5.1. As noted above, the Audit & Governance Committee was considered and noted the draft version in July 2024.

## **6. OPTIONS / ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

6.1. The Committee could request further information or changes to the final document prior to its approval and publication.

## **7. COMMENTS BY THE INTERIM GROUP HEAD OF FINANCE AND SECTION 151 OFFICER**

7.1. The Annual Governance Statement is a statutory document, which explains the processes and procedures in place to enable the Council to carry out its functions effectively. There are no direct financial implications.

## **8. RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS**

8.1. The Annual Governance Statement is a mandatory document and non-publication could lead to regulatory or reputational issues. As the audit of the Council's Accounts was subject to delay, an appropriate explanatory notice (as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015) was posted on the Council's website with the draft Accounts and draft Annual Governance Statement.

## **9. COMMENTS OF THE GROUP HEAD OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE & MONITORING OFFICER**

9.1. The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require the Council to approve an Annual Governance Statement each year. This function is within the terms of reference of the Audit & Governance Committee.

## **10. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT**

10.1. There are no impacts.

## **11.HEALTH & SAFETY IMPACT**

11.1. There are no impacts.

## **12.PROPERTY & ESTATES IMPACT**

12.1. There are no impacts.

## **13.EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) / SOCIAL VALUE**

13.1. There are no impacts.

## **14.CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT/SOCIAL VALUE**

14.1. There are no impacts.

## **15.CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT**

15.1. There are no impacts.

## **16.HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT**

16.1. There are no impacts.

## **17.FREEDOM OF INFORMATION / DATA PROTECTION CONSIDERATIONS**

17.1. There are no specific FOI or Data Protection implications.

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### **CONTACT OFFICER:**

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### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:**

[Draft Annual Governance Statement 2023/24 | Arun District Council](#)