



Council name	COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL
Name and date of Committee	AUDIT COMMITTEE – 26 NOVEMBER 2020
Report Number	AGENDA ITEM 8
Subject	ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2019/20
Wards affected	N/A
Accountable member	Cllr Mike Every Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance
Accountable officer	Jenny Poole, Chief Finance Officer Tel: 01285 623313 Email: jenny.poole@cotswold.gov.uk
Summary/Purpose	To present the Audit Committee with the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) 2019/20 for inclusion within the Statement of Accounts.
Annexes	Annex A – Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 Annex B – Local Code of Corporate Governance
Recommendation/s	That Members receive the final Annual Governance Statement for 2019/20 and approve it for inclusion within the Statement of Accounts.
Corporate priorities	Priority - Ensure that all services delivered by the council are delivered to the highest standard Principle - Value for money - we will use the council's resources wisely, but will invest in the fabric and future of the district
Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	Public Executive Directors, Interim Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer, Leader of the Council, Members of the Audit Committee

1. BACKGROUND

General

- 1.1. The Council is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively. The Council also has a duty under the Local Government Act 1999 to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.
- 1.2. In discharging this overall responsibility, the Council is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs, facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, and which includes arrangement for the management of risk. Attached at '**Annex B**' is a copy of the Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance which was approved last year. The Local Code remains consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE Guidance. Due to the impact of Covid 19 on resources, the Local Code has not been updated for 2019/20 but will be reviewed during 2020/21 to reflect any necessary changes.
- 1.3. The Annual Governance Statement (AGS) details how the Council has complied with the Code and also meets the requirements of Regulation 4(4) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011 in relation to the publication of an AGS and, from 1st April 2015 the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 in relation to the publication of a Statement on Annual Governance.

The Annual Governance Statement

- 1.4. The AGS is a corporate issue and has been developed, and subsequently reviewed, by the Council's Local Management Team and Publica Directors.
- 1.5. The AGS details the Governance Framework and the Review of Effectiveness that has been used to measure the Council's existing governance arrangements. The AGS also includes improvements which have been identified to strengthen the Governance Framework.
- 1.6. The draft version of the AGS for 2019/20 was brought to this Committee in July 2020 for consideration and comment. Following the Committee's comments, amendments have been made and the final version of the AGS is now being presented to this Committee, for approval, together with the audited Statement of Accounts. A copy of the AGS is attached at **Annex 'A'**.

2 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1. None.

3 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1. There are no legal implications arising from the recommendation in this report

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 4.1. No risk assessment is necessary given the subject matter of this report.

5 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 5.1. None