



COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

16^h April 2019

AGENDA ITEM (13)

DRAFT ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2018/2019

Accountable Member	Audit Committee
Accountable Officer	Jenny Poole Section 151 Officer 01285 623313 jenny.poole@cotswold.gov.uk

Purpose of Report	To present the Audit Committee with the draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS) 2018/19 for consideration and comment.
Recommendation(s)	(a) That the committee considers the Draft AGS and make comment as necessary. (b) That the committee approves the Local Code of Corporate Governance for 2018/19.
Reason(s) for Recommendation(s)	The 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 Annual Governance Statement and, from 1 st April 2015 the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 in relation to the publication of a Statement on Annual Governance.

Ward(s) Affected	N/A
Key Decision	No
Recommendation to Council	No

Financial Implications	N/A
Legal and Human Rights Implications	N/A
Environmental and Sustainability Implications	N/A
Human Resource Implications	N/A
Key Risks	The AGS discusses risks in terms of the governance framework

Equalities Analysis	Not required
Related Decisions	N/A
Background Documents	CIPFA SOLACE Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework CIPFA Finance Advisory Network, The Annual Governance Statement, Meeting the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011 and, from 1 st April 2015 the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 in relation to the publication of a Statement on Annual Governance.
Appendices	Appendix 'A' - Draft Annual Governance Statement 2018/19
Performance Management Follow Up	The control risks identified will be subject to follow-up in line with the Annual Audit Plan

Background Information	
1. <u>General</u>	
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 ' Appendix B ' is a copy of the Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance for 2018/19, which is consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE Guidance.	
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 1 st April 2015 the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 in relation to the publication of a Statement on Annual Governance.	
2. <u>The Annual Governance Statement</u>	
2.1 The AGS is a corporate issue and has been developed, and subsequently reviewed, by Corporate Team.	
2.2 The AGS details the Governance Framework and the Review of Effectiveness that has been used to measure the Council's existing governance arrangements - this included the direct reference to the Local Code of Corporate Governance that demonstrates the Council is committed to the principles of good corporate governance.	
2.3 The AGS also contains the recognition of governance issues and how the Council demonstrates how it intends to enhance its governance arrangements.	

2.4 A copy of the draft AGS is attached at **Appendix 'A'**.

2.5 Due to the requirement to produce draft Statement of Accounts by 31 May each year, a draft version of the AGS for 2018/19 is being brought to this Committee for consideration and comment. Amendments will be made where appropriate, and 2018/19 Internal Audit data will be included in the final version of the AGS which will be presented to this Committee, for approval, in July 2019 together with the audited Statement of Accounts.

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