



Council name	COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL
Name and date of Committee	AUDIT COMMITTEE – 21 JULY 2022
Report Number	AGENDA ITEM 9
Subject	ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2021/2022
Wards affected	All
Accountable member	CLlr Joe Harris, Leader Email: joe.harris@cotswold.gov.uk
Accountable officer	Robert Weaver, Chief Executive Email: rob.weaver@cotswold.gov.uk Report Author: Michael Butler – Risk and Compliance Officer Tel: 01594 812538, email mike.butler@publicagroup.uk
Summary/Purpose	To present the Audit Committee with the draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS) 2021/2022 for consideration and comment.
Annexes	Annex A – Draft Annual Governance Statement 2021/2022 Annex B – Local Code of Corporate Governance
Recommendation(s)	<i>For Members to receive and discuss the draft Annual Governance Statement for 2021/2022</i>
Corporate priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Delivering our services to the highest standards
Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	The Corporate Action Plan has been shared with statutory officers, and executive directors



1. BACKGROUND

- 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 arrangements for the management of risk. Attached at Annex B is a copy of the Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance. The Local Code remains 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 1st April 2015 the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 in relation to the publication of a Statement on Annual Governance.

2. THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

- 2.1 The AGS is a corporate issue and has been developed, and subsequently reviewed, by the Council's Local Management Team and Publica Directors.
- 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. The AGS also includes improvements which have been identified to strengthen the Governance Framework.
- 2.3 A copy of the draft AGS is attached at Annex A.
- 2.4 The draft version of the AGS for 2021/2022 is brought to this Committee for consideration and comment. Amendments will be made where appropriate, and the final version of the AGS will be brought to this Committee, for approval, in September 2022 together with the audited Statement of Accounts.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 None

7. RISK ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 None



8. EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.1 None

9. CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None

10. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

10.1 None

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1 None

(END)