



COTSWOLD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council name	COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL
Name and date of Committee	AUDIT COMMITTEE – 27 APRIL 2023
Subject	2022/23 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT ACTION PLAN UPDATE
Wards affected	All
Accountable member	Cllr Joe Harris, Leader of the Council Email: joe.harris@cotswold.gov.uk
Accountable officer	Robert Weaver, Chief Executive Email: robert.weaver@cotswold.gov.uk
Report author	David Stanley, Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer Email: david.stanley@cotswold.gov.uk
Summary/Purpose	This report presents to the Audit Committee an update on the 2022/23 Annual Governance Statement (AGS) Action Plan
Annexes	Annex A – 2022/23 Action Plan
Recommendation(s)	To receive and discuss the 2022/23 Annual Governance Statement Action Plan update
Corporate priorities	ALL
Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	N/A



I 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, and facilitating the effective exercise of its functions which includes arrangements for the management of risk. As part of that progress the Council has adopted a Local Code of Corporate Governance (the Local Code) which is consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE Guidance.
- 1.3 The Annual Governance Statement (AGS) presented to the committee in September 2022 set out how the Council complied with the Local Code and met the requirements of the relevant Accounts and Audit Regulations.

2 AGS ACTION PLAN 2022/23

- 2.1 The AGS for 2021/2022 identified six areas for focused improvement in 2022/23 which formed the Action Plan provided at Annex A. These centred around
- Raising awareness of the contract procedure rules
 - Development of a training programme for members
 - Budget management
 - Risk management training
 - Compliance with audit recommendations
 - Business continuity plan development and testing
- 2.2 An update on progress (the Action Plan) is set out in Annex A and paragraph 5.1 of this report.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.



COTSWOLD
DISTRICT COUNCIL

4 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report

5 RISK ASSESSMENT

5.1 If the Council's governance arrangements are weak then Council is at risk of failing to safeguard the use of public funds. In turn this would lead to poor external assessments, damaging the reputation of the Council. The areas of focus for the 2022/23 financial year were identified in the Action Plan providing a clear set of priorities for the continual improvement of governance and mitigation of risk.

6 EQUALITIES IMPACT

6.1 An equalities impact assessment is not required for this report

7 CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL EMERGENCIES IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None

8 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

8.1 None

(END)