

Chief Executive Decision

2020/21 Annual Governance Statement

Executive Portfolio Holder: Val Keitch – Leader of the Council
Director: Nicola Hix, Strategy & Support Services
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Purpose of the Report

To confirm the recommendation of members of the Audit Committee relating to the 2020/21 Annual Governance Statement, following a consultative meeting of Audit Committee on 30 September 2021.

Public Interest

At the meeting of Full Council on Thursday 15 April 2021 it was agreed to make the following changes to the Council's Constitution:

- a) To continue to enable members to hold remote, virtual meetings using available technology;
- b) To amend Part 3 (Responsibility for Functions) of the Council's Constitution to allow those remote meetings to function as consultative bodies and delegate decisions, including Executive and Quasi-Judicial decisions, that would have been taken by those meetings if the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 had continued in force to the Chief Executive (or the relevant Director in the Chief Executive's absence) in consultation with those meetings and those members to whom the decision would otherwise have been delegated under Part 3 of the Constitution;
- c) The delegated authority given under (b) will expire on 31 July 2021 unless continued by a future decision of this Council;

Further to the above, at the meeting of Full Council on 8 July 2021, it was agreed:

- a) To continue to enable members to hold remote, virtual meetings using available technology and to extend the delegation given on 15 April 2021 for a further 6 months, to 08 January 2022;

Decision Taken

The Chief Executive, following a consultative meeting of the Audit committee on 30 September 2021, made the following decision;

Approve: • Approve the draft 2020-21 Annual Governance Statement

Reason

As a local authority SSDC is required to demonstrate compliance with the underlying principles of good governance and that a framework exists to demonstrate this. One of the Council's requirements in demonstrating this is to produce an Annual Governance Statement (AGS).

Background

To enable the decision making process to continue, it was agreed that Councillors continue to receive decision-making reports. They will form a view which will be communicated to the Chief Executive. The decision will be formally made by the Chief Executive (or relevant Director) during the current coronavirus restrictions.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications.

Background Papers

Audit Committee Agenda report

<https://modgov.southsomerset.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=135&MId=3058&Ver=4>
