

Draft Annual Governance Statement 2021-22

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Purpose of the Report

1. This report has been prepared for the Audit Committee to approve the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for 2021-22.

Recommendations

That Audit Committee approves the draft 2021-22 Annual Governance Statement.

Background

2. 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).
3. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) provide guidance on the processes for the establishment, operation and review of the system of internal control. Their guidance also provides help on the format and content of the AGS.

Annual Governance Statement

4. The Annual Governance Statement is required by Regulation 6(1)(b) of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015. The regulations require authorities to carry out, in each financial year, a review of the effectiveness of their system of internal control and provide that they may include an Annual Governance Statement in the annual accounts or alongside them. The intention is to provide assurance that SSDC has a sound internal control framework in place to manage the risks that might prevent achievement of its statutory obligations and organisational objectives. The Statement also reflects compliance with CIPFA Guidance.
5. The Annual Governance Statement must be signed by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive.
6. In producing the Annual Governance Statement, reports from SSDC's external auditors, South West Audit Partnership, a review of the effectiveness of internal audit, and the annual review of the Assistant Director of SWAP have been taken into account.

7. There are no significant issues to be addressed. Significant issues are issues that would be highlighted through SLT in carrying out its Corporate Governance function, by the section 151 Officer or the Monitoring Officer, by Internal Audit as a risk score of 5, or highlighted through the work of External Audit. The action plan included within the Annual Governance Statement will further strengthen the control framework.

Financial Implications

8. There are no financial implications associated with these recommendations

Legal implications (if any) and details of Statutory Powers

9. There are no legal implications associated with these recommendations

Risk Matrix

10. Risk considerations are included in the contents of the report.

Carbon Emissions and Climate Change Implications

11. There are no carbon emissions and climate change implications associated with these recommendations

Equality and Diversity Implications

12. There are no equality and diversity implications associated with these recommendations

Privacy Impact Assessment

13. There are no privacy impact implications associated with these recommendations

Background Papers

None