

From: Ben Watts, General Counsel  
To: Governance and Audit Committee, 27 April 2022  
Subject: Annual Governance Statement  
Status: Unrestricted

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## **Recommendation**

The Governance and Audit Committee is asked to:

- a) Approve the timetable for the Annual Governance Statement 2021/22; and
  - b) Note the update on governance activity
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### **1. Introduction**

- a) This report provides an update for Members in relation to the process for the Annual Governance Statement for 2021/22 and seeks approval for the draft timetable. The report also provides an update on the ongoing activity which has previously been reported to the Committee and will be supplemented by a short presentation at the Committee meeting on 27 April 2022.
- b) The final version of the Annual Governance Statement for 2020/21 was approved on 30 November 2021 and work has been progressing against the activities and actions identified therein. The draft version of the last year's Annual Governance Statement came to the Committee in July 2021. This was the first time that it had come to Committee in draft.

### **2. Annual Governance Statement Timetable 2021/22**

- a) It is recommended by officers that the Annual Governance Statement is once again brought to the Committee in draft. Involvement and observations from the Committee were helpful in defining and agreeing the final version of the document.
- b) Whilst there were good reasons given the work programme of the Committee for the final version of the statement to be agreed in November, it is recommended that for this year, the final version be brought before the Committee by October at the latest.
- c) As such the proposed timetable would be:

- a. Initial Discussion of the Draft Annual Governance Statement 2021/22 – 11 July 2022
- b. Discussion of final draft of Annual Governance Statement 2021/22 – October 2022
- d) The decision is brought for discussion at the Committee to ensure that Members are content with this approach and timings and to make sure that all views are considered given the importance of the Annual Governance Statement.

### **3. Annual Governance Statement – Actions Arising**

- a) The Annual Governance Statement for 2020/21 included a range of activity to be undertaken by the Monitoring Officer and other colleagues. The Monitoring Officer will circulate a presentation on Monday 25 April 2022 which will provide, for interest, an update on the current status of the work that has been ongoing since November. The presentation will also be made available as part of the papers to the meeting.
- b) The promised formal mid-year review of the activities and actions will be presented in a paper to the Committee at the July meeting.

### **4. Recommendations**

The Governance and Audit Committee is asked to:

- a) Approve the timetable for the Annual Governance Statement 2021/22; and
- b) Note the update on governance activity

### **5. Report Author and Relevant Director**

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