

From: Petra Der Man, Monitoring Officer
To: Governance and Audit Committee, 15 October 2026
Subject: Annual Governance Statement 2025/26
Status: Unrestricted

Summary: The Annual Governance Statement (AGS) provides an annual assessment of the effectiveness of the Council's governance arrangements and supports accountability, transparency and good decision-making. This report presents the AGS for the Committee's consideration and comment prior to its inclusion within the Council's Statement of Accounts.

1) Overview

- a) The Annual Governance Statement forms part of the Council's governance framework and Statement of Accounts. It provides assurance that appropriate arrangements are in place to support effective governance, risk management and internal control.
- b) The AGS has been prepared following a review of the Council's governance arrangements during 2025/26. The review considered a range of assurance sources, including Internal Audit, External Audit, the Monitoring Officer, the Section 151 Officer, Corporate Management Team, governance activity and risk management arrangements.
- c) The draft AGS was discussed by this committee on 26 July 2026 with Members' comments and observations considered in the preparation of the attached final version.

Recommendations

The Governance and Audit Committee is asked to approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2025/26.

2) Appendices

Appendix: Annual Governance Statement for 2025/26

3) Monitoring Officer

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