

From: Ben Watts, General Counsel

To: Governance and Audit Committee, 3 July 2025

Subject: Update on the Preparation of the Annual Governance Statement 2024/25

Status: Unrestricted

1. Introduction

- a) The Annual Governance Statement is a key document which provides Members and Officers with the opportunity to reflect on the processes, activities and behaviours which deliver decision making and output within the Council.
- b) The Governance and Audit Committee plays a key role in openly discussing issues and challenges as they arise and providing political oversight of the governance arrangements for the Council. The Annual Governance Statement forms a central part of the Committee's work and in addition to reflecting on activity from the prior year, defines a work programme for the year ahead.
- c) At the meeting on 3rd July 2025, the General Counsel will provide a short presentation to include an introduction to both the Annual Governance Statement and an update on the preparation of this year's statement and the role of the Committee in shaping it.
- d) It is anticipated that the final draft of the Annual Governance Statement 2024/25 will be brought to the September meeting of the Governance and Audit Committee for consideration.

2. Recommendations

The Governance and Audit Committee is asked to:

- a) NOTE the update on the preparation of the Annual Governance Statement 2024/25.

3. Background Documents

None.

4. Report Author and Relevant Director

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