

**ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2020/21 FINAL DRAFT**

Committee: Audit Committee

Date: 22 November 2021

Author: Chief Executive

[W106]

1.0 ISSUE

1.1 Consideration of the final draft of the 2020/21 Annual Governance Statement (AGS).

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Members are requested to:

- (i) approve the Annual Governance Statement 2020/21;
- (ii) if appropriate, instruct the Chief Executive to make any agreed changes in consultation with the Chairman of the Audit Committee;
- (iii) authorise the Leader of Council and Chief Executive to sign the statement.

3.0 BACKGROUND/OPTIONS

- 3.1 The Audit Committee on 26 July 2021 (ref: Agenda Item 7) received and noted the draft Annual Governance Statement 2020/21. The report (as above ref: 26 July 2021 Agenda Item 7) is attached as Appendix 3 and provides the background to the purpose, methodology and key issues for the Committee in their consideration.
- 3.2 The Audit Committee Terms of Reference (ref: Part 3, Page 51) specifically require the Committee to approve the Annual Governance Statement. The first draft of the AGS was presented and noted by the Committee together with a series of questions to be answered and where appropriate, reflected in an amended final draft of the statement. The final draft of the statement is attached as Appendix 2 with tracked changes highlighted from the first draft.
- 3.3 The Committee's previous queries/comments are summarised in Appendix 1 in tabular form as requested, together with response and proposed amendment to the statement (if appropriate). These previous queries/comments are evidenced in the minutes of this Committee (ref: 26 July 2021) and are attached (as draft) in the Agenda, item 4.
- 3.4 In addition, there have been a number of further changes to the final draft, specifically the inclusion of a review of the Financial Code during 2021/22 (as requested by Members – ref: Section 5 para 1 p10 Appendix 2) and clarification by the Monitoring Officer as to the process for the appointment of the independent persons (ref: Section 5 para 1 p 10).

4.0 PROPOSALS/CONCLUSIONS

4.1 If Members are minded to make further amendments, the final version will be agreed in consultation with the Chairman and signed by the Leader and Chief Executive.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

5.1 There are no further financial implications arising from this report. Equality and Climate Impact Assessments are not required.

6.0 APPENDICES

- 6.1 Appendix 1 – Summary of questions/queries arising from previous meeting and officer response  
Appendix 2 – Final draft of Annual Governance Statement 2020/21  
Appendix 3 – Covering Report to Audit Committee – 26 July 2021 (ref: Agenda Item 7)

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| <u>Background Documents</u>                            | <u>Location</u>        | <u>Contact Officer</u>                               |
|--|------------------------|--|
| Audit Committee – 26 July 2021<br>(ref: Agenda Item 7) | Room 103<br>The Grange | John Hill<br>Chief Executive                         |
| Appendix 1 – 1 <sup>st</sup> draft 2020/21<br>AGS      | Ely                    | (01353) 616271<br>E-mail: john.hill@eastcambs.gov.uk |