

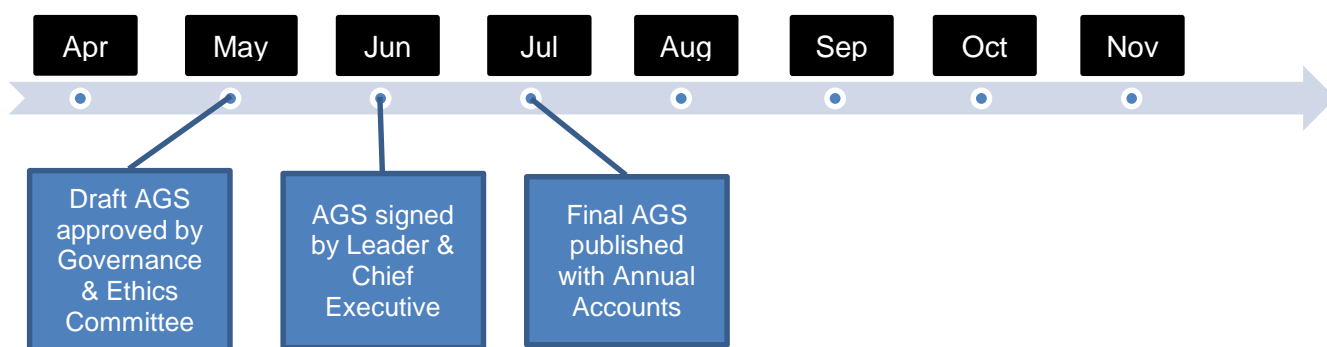
21 July 2020**Agenda Item: 9****REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, FINANCE, PROCUREMENT &
IMPROVEMENT****LOCAL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND ANNUAL
GOVERNANCE STATEMENT – 2019/20****Purpose of the Report**

1. To review the Local Code of Corporate Governance for Nottinghamshire County Council, and to seek approval for the proposed Annual Governance Statement 2019/20.

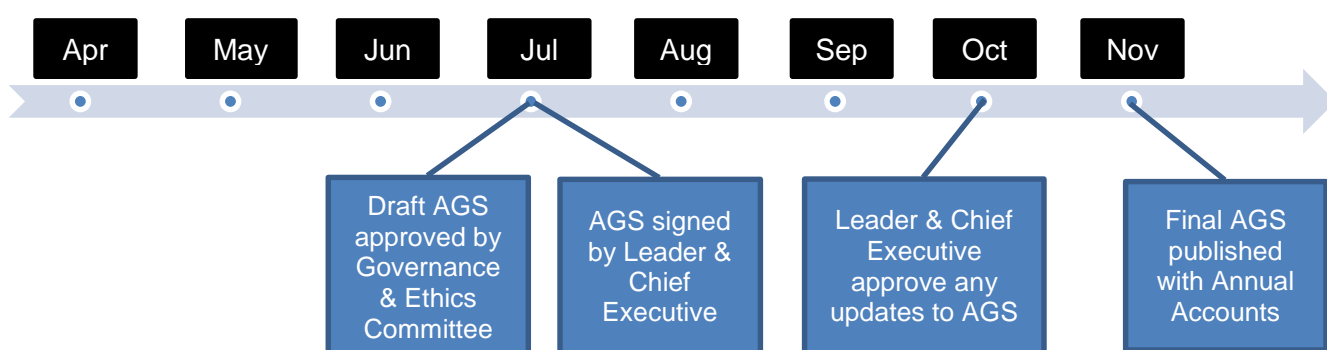
Information and Advice

2. The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 require the Authority to review the effectiveness of its system of internal control and publish an Annual Governance Statement (AGS), prepared in accordance with proper practices in relation to internal control.
3. The focus of the AGS is to assess the extent to which the Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance (**Appendix A**) has been complied with in 2019/20. The opportunity should also be taken to review and update the content of the Local Code. No changes are proposed at this point, however this should be kept under review as the Council works through its recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The quarterly governance update reports to the Governance & Ethics Committee will provide the means for doing that.
4. This AGS assesses governance in place during 2019/20, therefore most of the year was unaffected by coronavirus. However, the significant impact of the pandemic took hold during March 2020, and the Council needs to ensure that the AGS is current at the time of its publication. The AGS is published alongside the annual accounts, the timescales for which have been pushed back to November 2020. This may mean updates to the AGS are required prior to its final publication in November. In order to accommodate this, it is proposed that authority to make changes to the statement be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the County Council, and that any significant changes be reported back to Committee following publication. The following timelines depict the usual and proposed process.

Usual process and timeline



Proposed process and timeline for 2019/20 AGS



5. The AGS has been drawn up on the basis of a range of evidence sources, which are described at paragraph 3.3 of the Statement.
6. The draft Statement has been endorsed by the Corporate Leadership Team, and it is attached as **Appendix B** for consideration by the Committee.

Other Options Considered

7. The requirement to publish an annual governance statement is set out in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011. No other options are available.

Reason for Recommendation

8. To set out how the Authority has met its governance responsibilities for 2019/20.

Statutory and Policy Implications

9. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) That the Committee approves the Annual Governance Statement 2019/20 and makes any comments or recommendations which it agrees ought to be included in the statement.
- 2) That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to make any updates required to the AGS prior to its final publication in November 2020, with any significant changes reported back to a subsequent meeting of the Committee.

Nigel Stevenson

Service Director – Finance, Infrastructure & Improvement

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (LW 23/06/2020)

Governance and Ethics Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of the report.

Financial Comments (RWK 18/06/2020)

There are no specific financial implications arising directly from the report.

Background Papers

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972:

None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All