

23 June 2021

Agenda Item: 9

**REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, FINANCE, PROCUREMENT &
IMPROVEMENT**

**LOCAL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND ANNUAL
GOVERNANCE STATEMENT – 2020/21**

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 2020/21.

Information

2. The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 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](#) has been complied with in 2020/21. 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 2020/21 and is published alongside the annual accounts. The timescales for the accounts and AGS have been pushed back to September 2021 as a result of the Government accepting the findings of the recommendation of the Independent Review of Local Authority Financial Reporting and Audit (the Redmond Review). This may mean updates to the AGS are required prior to its final publication in September. 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.
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 A** 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 2015. No other options are available.

Reason for Recommendation

8. To set out how the Authority has met its governance responsibilities for 2020/21.

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 2020/21 and makes any comments or recommendations which it considers ought to be included in the statement.
- 2) That the Committee approves that any updates required to the AGS prior to its final publication in September 2021 may be agreed by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader.

Nigel Stevenson

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For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments (EKH 02/06/2021)

10. The recommendations fall within the remit of Governance and Ethics Committee under its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (RWK 02/06/2021)

11. 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