

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL
AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

**AGENDA
ITEM NO**

26 JULY 2018

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Report Title	DRAFT ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (AGS) 2017/18
Purpose of Report	To summarise Stroud District Council's corporate governance arrangements in place during 2017/2018, via the publication of an AGS, (to be signed by the Leader and the Chief Executive), supported by a revised Local Code of Corporate Governance 2017/2018 and the Council Wide Governance Assurance Map, which is in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1999, the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) / Society of Local Authorities Chief Executives (SOLACE) guidance – Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework 2016.
Decision(s)	Audit and Standards Committee is asked to RESOLVE that the AGS 2017/18 (including the actions planned by the Council to further enhance good governance arrangements), as set out in Appendix A, be approved.
Consultation and Feedback	Corporate Team, Monitoring Officer, Chief Financial Officer.
Financial Implications	There are no financial implications arising from the report. The AGS does set out the key 2017/18 governance matters and provides a commentary from each lead officer on the matters identified, actions to be taken, and a target date. If the Council does not address or mitigate the issues identified, the Council may not be able to deliver its Corporate Priorities or incur additional expenditure/loss of income. David Stanley Acting S151 Officer Tel: 01453 754100 Email: david.stanley@stroud.gov.uk

Risk Assessment	<p>Risk Assessment:</p> <p>Failure to deliver effective governance will impact on the ability of the Council to achieve its vision, priorities and key actions. It is important to recognise that the purpose of the AGS is not just to be 'compliant', but also to provide an accurate representation of the arrangements in place during the year and to highlight those areas where improvement is required.</p>
Legal Implications	<p>There are no direct legal implications in respect to this report. (Ref:r107cd127)</p> <p>Karen Trickey, Head of Legal Services Email: karen.trickey@stroud.gov.uk</p>
Report Author	<p>Theresa Mortimer Head of Audit Risk Assurance (Chief Internal Auditor) Tel: 01453 754319 Email: Theresa.mortimer@stroud.gov.uk</p>
Options	<p>There are no alternative options that are relevant to this matter.</p>
Performance Management Follow Up	<p>The AGS contains the Council's Action Plan – 2017/18. The Council will continually monitor progress against the Action Plan within 2018/19. Results will be summarised and reported to Audit and Standards Committee throughout 2018/19.</p>
Background Papers/ Appendices	<p>Appendix A Draft AGS 2017/18 Appendix B Revised Local Code of Corporate Governance (LCCG) 2017/18 Appendix C Council Wide Governance Assurance Map 2017/18.</p> <p>Background papers: None. Reference and Council website links to supporting reports and documentation are made within the draft AGS and LCCG 2017/18. (Appendix A, Appendix B and Appendix C).</p>

1.0 Background

- 1.1 In April 2016, CIPFA and SOLACE published 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework 2016 and this applies to annual governance statements prepared for the 2017/2018 financial year. Guidance notes were also published to assist Council Leaders and Chief Executives in reviewing and testing their governance arrangements against the revised seven principles for good governance.

- 1.2 The key focus of the framework is on sustainability: economic, social and environmental and the need to focus on the longer term and the impact actions may have on future generations.
- 1.3 In response to the above, we therefore:
- reviewed the existing governance arrangements against the principles set out in the Framework;
 - developed and implemented a refreshed local code of corporate governance, based on the principles, including an assurance framework for ensuring ongoing effectiveness; and
 - will report publically, via the Annual Governance Statement on compliance with our code on an annual basis, how we have monitored the effectiveness of our governance arrangements in the year and on planned improvement areas.