

**SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE COUNCIL****AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE – 3 OCTOBER 2023****ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT****REPORT OF MONITORING OFFICER/CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE****PART A – SUMMARY REPORT****1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

The report proposes the approval of the draft Annual Governance Statement 2022/23 (AGS) for publication alongside the draft accounts. The approval of the AGS is a legal requirement under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

**2. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

POLICY/COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Council Plan objectives?	
	Yes	This ensures that the systems in place address the risks and challenges that the Council faces through the Council Plan and that the governance systems in place are robust and rigorous
	Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) been completed?	
	No	Not required – not a decision causing any impact on any particular group or part of the community rather setting the governance approach for the Council.
SCRUTINY POWERS APPLICABLE	No	
KEY DECISION	No	
TARGET COMPLETION/ DELIVERY DATE	Approval for inclusion with Statement of Accounts (likely November 2023)	
FINANCIAL IMPACT	No	None
LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	Required to be completed by virtue of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	No	
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	No	

**PART B – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION****3. INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 (“the 2015 Regulations”) provide a requirement for the Council to publish, with the financial statements, a Statement on Internal Control and the whole way that the Council is managed and run.
- 3.2 It is a legal requirement under the 2015 Regulations that the Council produces an Annual Governance Statement (AGS) setting out how it ensures that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively.
- 3.3 The Council also has a duty under the Local Government Act 1999 to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.
- 3.4 In discharging this overall responsibility, the Council is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs, facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, and which include arrangements for the management of risk.
- 3.5 The AGS sets out how the Council meets the tests under the 2015 Regulations in line with the relevant guidance.

4. IMPACT ASSESSMENT – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Not required

5. PREVIOUS MINUTES

None

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 1. Council’s constitution
- 2. Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015

**7. RECOMMENDATION**

- 7.1** That Audit & Risk Committee support the attached draft Annual Governance Statement 2022/23 (at Appendix 1).

Report prepared by:

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