



REPORT TO:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE:	24 JANUARY 2019
REPORT OF THE:	CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER (s151) - ANTON HODGE
TITLE OF REPORT:	ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2018-19: UPDATE
WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The attached Appendix 1 gives an update on each of the key issues highlighted in the Annual Governance Statement (presented to the Committee in July 2018) and the actions proposed.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended the Committee note and comment on the progress and also the review of arrangements for completing and monitoring the statement in 2019-20 and future years.

3.0 REPORT DETAILS

- 3.1 The Annual Governance Statement was approved and submitted as part of the Year-end Accounts process. For the current financial year, the following key issues were identified:
- On-going and future changes to the Council's financial framework including several changes to national and local funding regimes will increase the financial pressure on the Council and risk profile. These changes arise from continued downward pressure on government funding of Councils as confirmed in the indicative long term financial settlement
 - Ensure that officers and members receive adequate and robust financial information on which to base budget decisions
 - The Corporate Peer Challenge findings recommended a review of Governance arrangements
 - The results of the recent Staff Survey indicated the bullying of employees within Ryedale District Council.
 - Ensure that arrangements regarding shared services, such as HR, payroll and financial support are in place to support the Council.
 - The audit opinion of the control environment for the management of risk is

“provides limited assurance”. This has been updated from “weak” in the previous year, but a number of issues remain which will ensure this remains a priority.

3.2 The Statement has traditionally been compiled by the Finance lead and seen very much as part of the accounts process, however in future it is intended that each service lead takes ownership of the areas relevant to them. The Chief Finance Officer will still retain overall oversight of the process and the statement and will discuss the draft statement with the Committee before sign-off.

3.3 It is also intended that a revised timetable for the process, including consideration by the Committee is adopted. This would see:

April/May: Drafting of Statement, including consultation with Members

July: Approval of Statement

Oct/Nov: Progress on Statement and consideration of emerging issues

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Background Papers:

Annual Governance Statement 2017-18