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<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>28 JULY 2021</b>
<b>REPORT OF THE:</b>	<b>CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER (s151) ANTON HODGE</b>
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	<b>DRAFT ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT</b>
<b>WARDS AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report presents the draft Annual Governance Statement which has been included in the draft accounts. The Committee is asked to note the Statement and to comment on it ahead of any final changes before it is signed off as part of the Annual Accounts later in the year.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes the draft Annual Governance Statement as presented and feeds back any comments for consideration in the final statement to the s151 Officer.

### **3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)**

- 3.1 To include feedback from the Committee ahead of production of the final Statement.

### **4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS**

- 4.1 This Statement is intended to provide reasonable assurance. It is stressed that no system of control can provide absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss. In concluding this overview of the Council's governance arrangements, a number of issues have been identified that need to be addressed to ensure continuous improvement in the Governance Framework.

### **5.0 POLICY CONTEXT AND CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 The Council is required by regulations to prepare and publish an Annual Governance Statement

## **6.0 REPORT CONTENTS**

- 6.1 The draft Annual Governance Statement is attached to this report as Appendix 1.
- 6.2 This sets out the framework within which financial control and corporate governance is managed and reviewed by the Council. It also reports on key issues identified and any relevant proposed actions.

## **7.0 IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The following implications have been identified:
- a) Financial  
Failure to manage risk can result in legal action and costs
  - b) Legal  
Failure to manage risk can result in legal action and costs
  - c) Other (Climate Change, Equalities, Staffing, Planning, Health & Safety, Environmental, Crime & Disorder)  
Failure to manage risk can result in legal action and costs

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**Background Papers:**