

**Report of the Head of Internal
Audit, Anti-Fraud and Assurance**

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 17TH NOVEMBER 2021

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (FINAL) 2020/21

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 This brief covering report presents the Authority's Final Annual Governance Statement (AGS) 2020/21

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee is recommended to consider the final AGS which reflects the governance arrangements in place and the actions arising from the annual governance review process.
- 2.2 Subject to the Committee's comments the final AGS will be presented to full Council for formal approval on 25th November 2021.
- 2.3 The Committee will receive updates on the progress of the actions identified in the AGS action plan at future meetings.

3. Background

- 3.1 The production of an AGS is a statutory requirement as defined in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. These regulations do not provide any guidance as to the content or format of the document. CIPFA provides guidance but this is not mandatory.
- 3.2 The AGS is a public document and should be constructed in a style that allows the reader to understand the governance arrangements of the Council and obtain assurance that there has been a robust annual review process resulting, where appropriate, in actions to address any improvements required.
- 3.3 The final AGS 2020/21 has been prepared following an annual governance review process previously outlined to the Committee.
- 3.4 It is important that the AGS is not seen as an "end of year" process, and that there is constant focus on the actions throughout the year.
- 3.5 The final AGS is appended to this report.

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