

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

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 27TH JULY 2022

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (DRAFT) 2021/22

1. Purpose of the report

1.1 This brief covering report presents the Authority's Draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS) 2021/22

2. Recommendations

2.1 **That the Committee considers and comments on the draft AGS which reflects the governance arrangements in place and the actions arising from the annual governance review process.**

2.2 **The final AGS will be presented to the Committee at the November meeting alongside the consideration of the statutory statement of accounts, and thereafter to full Council for approval.**

2.3 **The Committee will receive updates on the progress of the actions identified in the AGS action plan at meetings throughout the year.**

3. Background

3.1 The production of an AGS is a statutory requirement as defined in the Accounts and Audit Regulation 2015. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) provides guidance regarding the preparation of the AGS.

3.2 The AGS is, by definition, a public document and should be constructed in a style that allows the reader to understand the governance arrangements of the Council and obtain information and assurance that there has been a robust annual review process resulting, where appropriate, in actions to address any improvements required.

3.3 The draft AGS 2021/22 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 just an "end of year" process, and that there is constant focus on the actions throughout the year.

3.5 The draft AGS is appended to this report.

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