

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

26 July 2021

Report of the Management Team

Part 1- Public

Delegated

1 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2020/21

This report presents the Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31 March 2021 for Members' endorsement. The Annual Governance Statement is signed by both the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive and accompanies the Statement of Accounts 2020/21.

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 It is seen as good practice for local authorities to prepare and adopt a Local Code of Corporate Governance. The current Local Code of Corporate Governance is presented elsewhere on this agenda and this has been used for the purposes of the Annual Governance Statement.
- 1.1.2 The Annual Governance Statement accompanies the Statement of Accounts, but is not part of the Accounts. The purpose of the Annual Governance Statement is to assess and demonstrate that there is a sound system of corporate governance throughout the organisation. Governing is about how local government bodies ensure they are doing the right things, in the right way, for the right people in a timely, inclusive, open, honest and accountable manner.
- 1.1.3 The Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31 March 2021 is attached at **[Annex 1]**. The Statement has been prepared by way of a self-assessment questionnaire and supporting evidence. The same as that accompanying the Local Code of Corporate Governance agenda item. The Statement is signed by the most senior Member and officer of the Council.

1.2 Legal Implications

- 1.2.1 The preparation of the Annual Governance Statement is a statutory requirement.

1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.3.1 As set out in the papers.

1.4 Risk Assessment

- 1.4.1 The preparation of the Annual Governance Statement is a statutory requirement and, therefore, failure to prepare and approve the Statement could adversely affect the Council.

1.5 Equality Impact Assessment

- 1.5.1 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

1.6 Recommendations

- 1.6.1 Members are asked to endorse the Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Background papers:

Nil

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