

# TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

## AUDIT COMMITTEE

22 July 2024

### Report of the Management Team

#### Part 1- Public

#### Delegated

#### 1 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2023/24

**This report presents the Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31 March 2024 for Members' endorsement. The Annual Governance Statement was signed by both the Leader of the Council and the Interim Chief Executive on 31 May 2024 and accompanies the Statement of Accounts 2023/24.**

#### 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 by the Director of Central Services/Monitoring Officer and this has been used as a reference point.

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. Governance 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 2024 is attached at **[Annex 1]**. The Statement has been prepared by reference to the self-assessment questionnaire and supporting evidence accompanying the Local Code of Corporate Governance agenda item. The Statement was signed by the most senior Member and officer of the Council on 31 May 2024.

#### 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 2024.

Background papers:

contact: Paul Worden

Nil

Sharon Shelton

Director of Finance and Transformation on behalf of the Management Team