

Audit Committee

21 July 2025

Part 1 - Public

Delegated



Cabinet Member	Martin Coffin – Deputy Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Waste and Technical Services
Responsible Officer	Sharon Shelton – Director of Finance and Transformation on behalf of Management Team
Report Author	Paul Worden – Chief Financial Services Officer

Annual Governance Statement 2024/25

1 Summary and Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report presents the Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31 March 2025 for Members' endorsement. The Annual Governance Statement was signed by both the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive on 31 May 2025 and accompanies the Statement of Accounts 2024/25.

2 Corporate Strategy Priority Area

- 2.1 Efficient services for all our residents, maintaining an effective council.
- 2.2 The Statement of Accounts demonstrate that the authority's finances remain in a sound position.

3 Recommendations

- 3.1 Members are asked to **ENDORSE** the Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31 March 2025.

4 Introduction and Background

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 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.

- 4.3 The Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31 March 2025 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 2025.

5 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 5.1 As set out in the papers.

6 Risk Assessment

- 6.1 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.

7 Legal Implications

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

8 Cross Cutting Issues

- 8.1 Climate Change and Biodiversity

- 8.1.1 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.

Background Papers	None
Annexes	Annex 1 Annual Governance Statement