

**Meeting:** Audit Committee

**Date:** 26 May 2021

**Wards Affected:** All

**Report Title:** Annual Governance Statement 2020/2021

**Is the decision a key decision?** No

**When does the decision need to be implemented?** Immediately

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## **1. Proposal and Introduction**

- 1.1 The preparation of the Annual Governance Statement provides the opportunity for the organisation to review its processes, controls and objectives and to provide assurance to Members, Senior Officers and stakeholders as to the reliability of its statement of accounts and the probity of its operations.
- 1.2 The Annual Governance Statement fulfils the statutory requirement in England for a local authority to conduct a review at least once in each financial year of the effectiveness of its system of internal control and to include a statement reporting on the review with its Statement of Accounts.

## **2. Reason for Proposal and associated financial commitments**

- 2.1 To meet the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations.
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## **3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision**

- 3.1 That the draft Annual Governance Statement for 2020/2021 be agreed and forwarded to the External Auditors for comment.

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1: Draft Annual Governance Statement 2020/2021.

## Section 1: Background Information

1.	<p><b>What is the proposal / issue?</b></p> <p>The Annual Governance Statement for 2020/21 has been prepared and if agreed by Audit Committee, will be sent to External Auditors with the Annual Statement of Accounts for comment to be finally approved by Audit Committee in September 2021.</p>
2.	<p><b>What is the current situation?</b></p> <p>Regulations require every local authority, as good practice, to include in their annual Statement of Accounts an Annual Governance Statement signed by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive.</p>
3.	<p><b>What options have been considered?</b></p> <p>Not applicable.</p>
4.	<p><b>What is the relationship with the priorities within the Partnership Memorandum and the Council's Principles?</b></p> <p>The Statement sets out publicly the extent to which the Council complies with its own code of corporate governance (part of the codes and protocols of the Constitution), including how it monitored and evaluated the effectiveness of its governance arrangements in the year. It therefore supports all aspects of the partnership memorandum through demonstrating good governance of the council.</p>
5.	<p><b>How does this proposal/issue contribute towards the Council's responsibilities as corporate parents?</b></p> <p>There is no direct contribution.</p>
6.	<p><b>How does this proposal/issue tackle poverty, deprivation and vulnerability?</b></p> <p>There is no direct contribution.</p>
7.	<p><b>How does the proposal/issue impact on people with learning disabilities?</b></p> <p>There is no direct impact.</p>

8.	<p><b>Who will be affected by this proposal and who do you need to consult with? How will the Council engage with the community? How can the Council empower the community?</b></p> <p>Not applicable.</p>
<p><b>Section 2: Implications and Impact Assessment</b></p>	
9.	<p><b>What are the financial and legal implications?</b></p> <p>There are no financial commitments to the council beyond the officer time involved in collating this report.</p>
10.	<p><b>What are the risks?</b></p> <p>That the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations are not adequately met.</p>
11.	<p><b>Public Services Value (Social Value) Act 2012</b></p> <p>Not applicable.</p>
12.	<p><b>What evidence / data / research have you gathered in relation to this proposal?</b></p> <p>The Statement is prepared with information from Officers, Senior Officers and Internal Audit reports. It has been reviewed by the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council.</p>
13.	<p><b>What are key findings from the consultation you have carried out?</b></p> <p>Not applicable.</p>
14.	<p><b>Amendments to Proposal / Mitigating Actions</b></p> <p>Not applicable.</p>

## Equality Impacts

15.	Identify the potential positive and negative impacts on specific groups		
	Positive Impact	Negative Impact & Mitigating Actions	Neutral Impact
Older or younger people			There is no differential impact.
People with caring Responsibilities			There is no differential impact.
People with a disability			There is no differential impact.
Women or men			There is no differential impact.
People who are black or from a minority ethnic background (BME) <i>(Please note Gypsies / Roma are within this community)</i>			There is no differential impact.
Religion or belief (including lack of belief)			There is no differential impact.
People who are lesbian, gay or bisexual			There is no differential impact.
People who are transgendered			There is no differential impact.
People who are in a marriage or civil partnership			There is no differential impact.
Women who are pregnant / on maternity leave			There is no differential impact.
Socio-economic impacts (Including impact on child			There is no differential impact.

	poverty issues and deprivation)			
	Public Health impacts (How will your proposal impact on the general health of the population of Torbay)			There is no differential impact.
<b>16.</b>	<b>Cumulative Impacts – Council wide</b> (proposed changes elsewhere which might worsen the impacts identified above)	No cumulative impacts within the council.		
<b>17.</b>	<b>Cumulative Impacts – Other public services</b> (proposed changes elsewhere which might worsen the impacts identified above)	No cumulative impacts with other public services.		