

Guildford Borough Council

Report to: Corporate Governance & Standards Committee

Date: 28 September 2023

Ward(s) affected: n/a

Report of Director: Transformation & Governance

Author: John Armstrong

Tel: 01483 444102

Email: john.armstrong@guildford.gov.uk

Lead Councillor responsible: Merel Rehorst-Smith

Tel: 01483 610581

Email: merel.rehorst-smith@guildford.gov.uk

Report Status: Open

Corporate Governance & Standards Committee Annual Report: 2022-23

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Following receipt of an internal audit report on the effectiveness of the Committee, which was considered on 24 March 2022, one of the recommendations was that the Committee should report at least annually to the Council on its activities and an assessment of its performance in discharging its responsibilities as defined in the Committee's terms of reference.
- 1.2 The first of these annual reports, for the municipal year 2021-22, was considered by the Council on 8 February 2023. The annual report for the 2022-23 municipal year, is attached as **Appendix 1**.

2. Recommendation to Committee

- 2.1. The Committee is asked to review its annual report for 2022-23 and recommend its adoption by full Council (on 10 October 2023).

3. Reasons for Recommendation:

- 3.1 To ensure that the Committee is accountable for its work to the full Council.

4. Exemption from publication

- 4.1. No

5. Purpose of Report

- 5.1. The purpose of this report is to ask the Committee to review its annual report for the 2022-23 municipal year and commend its adoption by the full Council at its next ordinary meeting.

6. Strategic Priorities

- 6.1 The contents of the report are consistent with the following Values set out in the Council's Strategic Framework (2021-2025):
 - We will listen to the views of residents and be open and accountable in our decision-making.
 - We will deliver excellent customer service.
 - We will spend money carefully and deliver good value for money services.
 - We will ensure that our councillors and staff uphold the highest standards of conduct.

7. Background

- 7.1 Following receipt of an internal audit report on the effectiveness of the Committee, which was considered on 24 March 2022, one of the recommendations was that the Committee should report at least annually to the Council on its activities and an assessment of its performance in discharging its responsibilities as defined in the Committee's terms of reference.
- 7.2 The first of these annual reports, for the municipal year 2021-22, was considered by the Council on 8 February 2023. The annual report for the 2022-23 municipal year, is attached as **Appendix 1**.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 There are no direct financial implications in respect of this report.

9. Legal Implications

- 9.1 Whilst production of an annual report on the activities of the committee is not a legal requirement, it is recognised as best practice. There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

10. Human Resource Implications

- 10.1 There are no direct human resource implications in respect of this report.

11. Equality and Diversity Implications

- 11.1 Public authorities are required to have due regard to the aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty (Equality Act 2010) when making decisions and setting policies. This duty has been considered in the context of this report and it has been concluded that there are no equality and diversity implications arising directly from it.

12. Climate Change/Sustainability Implications

12.1 There are no direct climate change/sustainability implications arising from this report.

13. Summary of Options

13.1 The Committee can either refer the Annual Report, as drafted, to full Council, or amend it as appropriate before it is referred to full Council.

14. Background Papers

None

15. Appendices

Appendix 1: Draft Annual Report of the Corporate Governance & Standards Committee 2022-23