

# Guildford Borough Council

Report to: Corporate Governance and Standards Committee

Date: 20 February 2025

Wards affected: n/a

Report of the Joint Strategic Director of Finance and Resources

Author: Solomon Akuffo

Tel: 01483 444891

Email: [solomon.akuffo@guildford.gov.uk](mailto:solomon.akuffo@guildford.gov.uk)

Lead Councillor responsible: Julia McShane

Email: [julia.mcshane@guildford.gov.uk](mailto:julia.mcshane@guildford.gov.uk)

Report Status: Open

## Proposed Amendments to the Annual Governance Statement 2023-24

### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Committee, at its meeting held on 26 September 2024, considered and adopted the Annual Governance Statement detailing the governance framework and procedures that have operated at the Council during the year, a review of their effectiveness, significant governance issues that had occurred and a statement of assurance.
- 1.2 In considering the Annual Governance Statement, the Committee suggested that, in the interests of transparency, an additional column could be included in the “principles of good governance” table within the Annual Governance Statement showing shortcomings in governance and remedial actions taken.
- 1.3 Officers have subsequently included the additional column containing the information requested by the Committee, which is set out in red type in the amended Annual Governance Statement for 2023-24 attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

1.4 The Committee is therefore asked to approve the proposed amendments to the Annual Governance Statement for 2023-24. Once approved, the amended version of the Annual Governance Statement will be published alongside the Council's statement of accounts for 2023-24.

## **2. Recommendation to Committee:**

2.1 That the Committee approves the amendments to the Council's adopted Annual Governance Statement for 2023-24, as set out in Appendix 1 to this report, and publishes the amended Annual Governance Statement alongside the adopted statement of accounts for 2023-24.

## **3. Reason for Recommendation:**

3.1 To comply with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, the Council must prepare, approve, and publish an Annual Governance Statement.

## **4. Exemption from publication**

4.1. No.

## **5. Purpose of Report**

5.1 At its meeting held on 26 September 2024, the Committee considered the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for 2023-24. The Committee adopted the AGS but commented that, in the interests of transparency, an additional column could be included in the "principles of good governance" table within the AGS showing shortcomings in governance and remedial actions taken.

5.2 This report sets out amendments to the adopted AGS for 2023-24, which include the additional column of information requested, which the Committee is asked to approve.

## **6. Strategic Framework**

6.1 A key priority of the Council's Corporate Strategy is to ensure that we are a resilient and well-managed council. The Annual Governance Statement provides an indication as to how we are progressing with and working towards meeting this priority.

## **7 Financial Implications**

7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

## **8 Legal Implications**

8.1 In order to comply with Regulation 6 (1) (b) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, the Council must prepare an AGS in respect of each financial year. A committee of the Council, or the Council itself, may approve the AGS.

8.2 Regulation 10 of the 2015 Regulations requires the Council to publish the AGS alongside the adopted statement of accounts each year.

## **9 Human Resource Implications**

9.1 There are no human resource implications to this report at present.

9.2 We do not consider that there are any EDI implications arising from this report and therefore an EIA is not required currently. However specific projects as an outcome of the proposals may require a specific EIA for that project.

## **10 Background Papers**

None

## **11 Appendices**

Appendix 1: Amended Annual Governance Statement 2023-24