

## SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

**REPORT TO:** Audit & Corporate Governance Committee

**DATE:** 3 August 2020

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Sushil Thobhani, Service Lead Governance & Deputy Monitoring Officer

**(For all enquiries)** 07542 229125

**WARD(S):** All

### PART I FOR DECISION

#### ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2019-20

1 **Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to place before the Committee the Council's draft Annual Governance Statement for 2019-20, for noting and approval.

2 **Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action**

That the Committee note and approve the Council's draft Annual Governance Statement for 2019-20 as set out in the Appendix to this Report.

3. **The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan**

The delivery of all these strategic priorities is dependent on the highest possible standards of openness, honesty and accountability. This is underpinned by good governance arrangements being in place.

4 **Other Implications**

(a) Financial

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

(b) Risk Management

Recommendation from section 2 above	Risks/Threats/Opportunities	Current Controls	Using the Risk Management Matrix Score the risk	Future Controls
To note and approve the draft Annual Governance Statement set out in the Appendix to this report.	If the Annual Governance Statement is not published within the required timescales then there will be reputational	Annual calendar event in the Committee's Reports Cycle and prior consideration by CMT. Part of the	Legal & Regulatory Risk.  Likelihood is almost impossible and the impact is marginal.	Approval of the Annual Governance Statement by the Audit & Corporate Governance Statement by 30 November

	damage to the Council.	Council's duties as part of the publication and external audit of its annual accounts.	The Risk score is 2.	2020 within the required timescales.
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(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

There are no Human Rights Act or other legal implications arising from this Report other than specified in Section 5 below.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

There is no identified need for an Equality Impact Assessment arising from this Report.

(e) Workforce

There are no workforce implications arising from this Report.

## 5 Supporting Information

- 5.1 Under regulation 3 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 ("the Regulations") the Council must ensure that it has a sound system of internal control which (i) facilitates the effective exercise of its functions and the achievements of its aims and objectives (ii) ensures that the financial and operational management of the authority is effective and (iii) includes effective arrangements for the management of risk.
- 5.2 Under regulation 6 of the Regulations the Council must, each financial year, conduct a review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control required by regulation 3 and prepare an Annual Governance Statement ("AGS"). Under that regulation they must also approve the AGS by a resolution of a committee or members meeting as a whole.
- 5.3 The Council's practice is for the AGS to be approved by a resolution of the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee.
- 5.4 In accordance with the Regulations the Council have conducted the review required for the financial year 2019/20 and have prepared a draft AGS which is appended to this Report.
- 5.5 The draft AGS has been prepared in accordance with the principles set out in the CIPFA/SoLACE "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework (2016).
- 5.6 In normal circumstances the approval of the draft Annual Governance Statement would have been due by 31 May 2020. By virtue of the Audit and Accounts (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020, which came into force on 30 April 2020, however, that date has been extended to 31 August 2020, which is before the date of the next meeting of this Committee.

6. **Comments of other Committees**

This report has not been considered by any other committees.

7 **Conclusion**

The Council have carried out a review of the effectiveness of their system of internal control, as required by the Regulations, and have prepared the draft AGS to reflect the outcome of their review. The Committee are asked therefore to consider the draft AGS and to note and approve the same in order to complete the Council's compliance with the Regulations.

8 **Appendices Attached**

Draft Annual Governance Statement 2019-20

9 **Background Papers**

CIPFA/SoLACE Publication "Delivering Good Governance in Local government Framework (2016)"

CIPFA Better Governance Forum Publication "The Annual Governance Statement for 2019/20 – Matters to consider as a result of the coronavirus pandemic" – April 2020