

## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

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

**DATE:** 30 July 2019

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

**(For all enquiries)** (01753) 875036

**WARD(S):** All

### **PART I** **FOR DECISION**

#### **ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

##### **1 Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to place before the Committee the Council's draft Annual Governance Statement for approval.

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

That the Council's draft Annual Governance Statement as set out in the Appendix to this Report be approved.

##### **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 financial implications arising from this report.

###### **(b) 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.

###### **(c) Equalities Impact Assessment**

There is no identified need for an EIA 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 2018/19 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).

## 6 **Conclusion**

The Council have carried out a review of the effectiveness of their system of internal control as required by the Regulations and 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.

## 7 **Appendices**

A - Draft Annual Governance Statement