

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

PUBLIC REPORT

Report to:	AUDIT COMMITTEE
Report of:	Director of Council Management (Interim)
Date of Meeting:	29 June 2021
Subject:	2020/21 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT
Wards Affected: All	
1. Purpose of Report	
<p>1.1. The Annual Governance Statement (AGS) forms part of the Statement of Accounts for 2020/21 and reports on the Council's internal control regime.</p> <p>1.2. Section 6 of the AGS includes 8 key issues for the Council which may impact on the organisation's governance arrangements.</p>	
2. Recommendations	
<p>2.1. To approve the Annual Governance Statement that will be included in the 2020/21 Statement of Accounts.</p> <p>2.2. To agree that the arrangements for the management of the items included in Section 6 will be reported to the Audit Committee during the year.</p>	

3. Background

- 3.1 One of the requirements for the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) is that it should reflect the governance arrangements for the financial year to which it relates, up to the date of approval of the Statement of Accounts.
- 3.2 The AGS forms part of the Council's annual Statement of Accounts.
- 3.3 The significant issues raised in the Assurance Statement and audit processes are summarised in Section 6 of the AGS. This section comments very broadly on the Council's achievement of its central objectives and external assessments, it raises issues arising from joint working with partners and refers to significant matters highlighted by the annual review of internal control.

4. Legal and Resource Implications

- 4.1 The AGS is a requirement of The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, Regulation 6(1)(b) and meets the corporate governance best practice recommendations. The Accounts and Audit (Amendment) Regulations 2021 came into force on 31 March 2021. These regulations amend the publication dates of the draft accounts to no later than 31 July 2021, as public inspection must commence no later than 1 August 2021 and the audited accounts to be published no later than 30 September 2021 for local authorities. There are no direct resource implications arising from this report.

5. Risk Management & Equality Impact Assessment Issues

- 5.1 The Statement forms part of the Council's risk management approach and the relevant issues are those considered in the attached schedule.

6. Compliance Issues

- 6.1 The AGS forms part of the statutory requirements for the Council's Annual Statement of Accounts.
- 6.2 The Council's continued improvement in responding to the issues referred to in the Statement will complement the development and delivery of the Council of the Future's objectives.

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