



North Devon Council

Report Date: Wednesday, 20 November 2024

Topic: Annual Governance Statement 2023/24

Report by: Adam Tape, Head of Governance

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The Annual Governance Statement publishes our governance arrangements and provides assurance that the systems in place meet the principles of the CIPFA/SoLACE Framework “Delivering Good Governance in Local Government 2016” and is fit for purpose.
- 1.2. Appendix B, is our assessment of how the CIPFA principles are met, where governance can be seen in action, the assurance received and any issues identified.
- 1.3. Appendix C, is the latest progress report on the actions identified during the 23/24 Annual Governance Assessment.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. That the Annual Governance Statement 2023/24 (appendix A) be approved

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1. The Council must exercise corporate governance which is consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/SoLACE Framework “Delivering Good Governance in Local Government 2016” (“The Framework”). This Annual Governance Statement (AGS) explains how the council complies with the framework and also meets the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations in relation to the publication of a statement on internal control.

4. REPORT

- 4.1. The draft Annual Governance Statement was considered and approved by the Governance Committee in June 2024 with the final AGS now requiring Full Council approval, alongside the Statement of Accounts.
- 4.2. The AGS has been updated with the findings from our external auditors, Bishop Fleming, now they have completed their review of the financial statements for the year 2023/24.
- 4.3. Internal audit supported the review of our corporate governance arrangements and their comments have been incorporated into the AGS.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. None



6. EQUALITIES ASSESSMENT

6.1. There are no equalities implications anticipated as a result of this report

7. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

7.1. There are no environmental implications arising from the report

8. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

8.1. Good corporate governance is important to help achieve all of our corporate priorities

9. CONSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

9.1. The decision in respect of the recommendations in this report can be made pursuant to Article 4.5.19 of the Constitution.

10. STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

This report contains no confidential information or exempt information under the provisions of Schedule 12A of 1972 Act.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The background papers are available for inspection and kept by the author of the report.

12. STATEMENT OF INTERNAL ADVICE

The author (below) confirms that advice has been taken from all appropriate Councillors and Officers:

Adam Tape, Head of Governance