

## **Report to Audit Committee**

**Subject:** Draft Annual Governance Statement 2024/25

**Date:** 16 September 2025

**Author:** Chief Financial Officer

### **1 Purpose of Report**

To inform Members of the proposed Annual Governance Statement 2024/25 and the unaudited Statement of Accounts 2024/25.

#### **Recommendation:**

1. Note the draft Annual Governance Statement 2024/25 and provide any comments for inclusion in the final version when presented to the Audit Committee later in the financial year.
2. Note the unaudited Statement of Accounts for 2024/25.

### **2 Background**

The Council is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, and that it is used economically, efficiently and effectively. In accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations the Council conducts an annual review of the effectiveness of the system of internal controls and prepares an Annual Governance Statement (AGS).

The Council's draft AGS for 2024/25 is attached at Appendix 1, and the draft Statement of Accounts for 2024/25 is attached at Appendix 2.

The unaudited Statement of Accounts was published on the Council's website on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

In addition to the Annual Governance Statement and Statement of Accounts, the Council is required to prepare a Narrative Statement which includes comment on the Council's financial performance and the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of its use of resources over the financial year. This forms part

of the draft Statement of Accounts and can be found at pages 3 to 17 of Appendix 2.

### **3 Proposal**

Following the review of the system of internal control it is proposed that the AGS for 2024/25, attached at Appendix 1, is noted and that comments be provided for inclusion in the final version of the AGS to be presented to the Audit Committee for approval at its meeting in December 2025.

### **4 Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

### **5 Legal Implications**

The Annual Governance Statement is a statutory requirement for authorities under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, which requires authorities each financial year to conduct a review of the effectiveness of their systems of internal control and prepare an annual governance statement in accordance with proper practices in relation to accounts.

### **6 Equalities Implications**

There are no equalities implications directly arising from this report.

### **7 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications**

There are no carbon reduction/environmental sustainability implications arising from this report.

### **8 Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Draft Annual Governance Statement 2024/24

Appendix 2 – Draft Unaudited Statement of Accounts 2024/25

#### **Statutory officer Approval:**

**Approved by:** Chief Financial Officer

**Date:** 05/09/2025

**Approved by:** Monitoring Officer

**Date:** 05/09/2025

