

West Suffolk Annual Governance Statement 2020 to 2021

Report number:	PAS/WS/21/019	
Report to and date(s):	Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee	18 November 2021
Cabinet member:	Councillor Sarah Broughton Cabinet Member for Resources and Property Tel: 07929 305787 Email: sarah.broughton@westsuffolk.gov.uk	
Lead officer:	Rachael Mann Director, Resources and Property Tel: 01638 719245 Email: rachael.mann@westsuffolk.gov.uk	

Decisions Plan: This item is not included in the Decisions Plan.

Wards impacted: Not applicable.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee:

Approves the draft 2020 to 2021 Annual Governance Statement for signing by the Leader and Chief Executive.

1. Context to this report

- 1.1 West Suffolk 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 used economically, efficiently and effectively.
- 1.2 In discharging this overall responsibility, the council is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs and facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, including arrangements for the management of risk.
- 1.3 The annual governance statement provides stakeholders with assurance that the council has operated within the law and that it has met the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. The annual governance statement accompanies the statement of accounts.

2. Proposals within this report

- 2.1 A copy of the draft West Suffolk Annual Governance Statement 2020 to 2021 is attached to this report at **Appendix A**. The document has been prepared by the Officer Governance Group and is West Suffolk Council's second annual governance statement.
- 2.2 A key function of the council's Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee is to review and approve the draft annual governance statement prior to it being signed by the council's Leader and Chief Executive.

3. Alternative options that have been considered

- 3.1 Production and approval of an annual governance statement is required under regulations issued by the Government. No alternative options were considered.

4. Consultation and engagement undertaken

- 4.1 This report was produced in consultation with the Leadership Team.

5. Risks associated with the proposals

- 5.1 Approval of an annual governance statement is required under regulations issued by the Government.

6. Implications arising from the proposals

6.1 Any implications arising are covered within Appendix A.

7. Appendices referenced in this report

7.1 Appendix A – West Suffolk Annual Governance Statement 2020-21

8. Background documents associated with this report

8.1 None