

West Suffolk Annual Governance Statement 2022 to 2023

Report number:	PAS/WS/23/018	
Report to and date(s):	Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee	28 September 2023
Cabinet member:	Councillor Diane Hind Cabinet Member for Resources Tel: 01284 706542 Email: diane.hind@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 required to be included in the Cabinet Decisions Plan.

Wards impacted: Not applicable

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

1. Scrutinises the draft 2022 to 2023 Annual Governance Statement and makes comments as necessary.

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 2022 to 2023, prepared by the Officer Governance Group, is attached to this report at **Appendix A**.
- 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.
- 2.3 The draft annual governance statement is presented here for scrutiny and comment by the Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee. Approval by this committee, and signing by the Leader and Chief Executive, will be sought at a later date and timed to take into account the timetable for the external audit of the 2022 to 2023 Statement of Accounts.

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 – Draft West Suffolk Annual Governance Statement 2022 to 2023

8. Background documents associated with this report

- 8.1 None