



# WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

## AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

---

**Report Title** Annual Governance Statement 2022-23

**Report Author** Jen Morris, Head of Audit and Risk Management  
Jen.morris@westnorthants.gov.uk

### Contributors/Checkers/Approvers

<b>West MO</b>	Cath Whitehead	Date here with confirmation that email approval obtained and retained
<b>West S151</b>	Martin Henry	18/07/2023

### List of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2022-23

#### **1. Purpose of Report**

---

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Annual Governance Statement 2022-23

#### **2. Executive Summary**

---

2.1 The Annual Governance Statement (AGS) is a review of our activities to ensure the Council is carrying out its functions effectively and is produced in line with the governance framework detailed in the CIPFA Delivering Good Governance Framework. The Council's Code of Corporate Governance details the policies, procedures, behaviours, and values by which the Council is controlled and governed.

#### **3. Recommendations**

---

3.1 It is recommended that the Committee endorse the draft Annual Governance Statement.

#### **4. Reason for Recommendations**

---

- 4.1 The Audit and Governance Committee is responsible for:
- Providing independent assurance as to the Council's governance, risk management framework and associated control environment
  - Providing independent scrutiny of the Council's financial and non-financial performance and oversee the Council's financial reporting process

## **5. Report Background**

---

- 5.1 The AGS has been produced by the Internal Audit and Governance services and is reviewed and signed by the Leader and Chief Executive of the Council. It forms part of the statutory accounts, which are reviewed by the Council's external auditors.

## **6. Issues and Choices**

---

- 6.1 The governance of the Council is set out in the Code of Corporate Governance which covers the following principles:
- 6.1.1 Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law
- 6.1.2 Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement
- 6.1.3 Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits
- 6.1.4 Determining the intervention necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes
- 6.1.5 Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it
- 6.1.6 Managing tasks and performance through robust internal controls and strong public financial management
- 6.1.7 Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting and audit, to deliver effective accountability
- 6.2 Issues and areas for improvement have been identified as part of the governance review and have actions plans and related owners and will be monitored.

## **7. Implications (including financial implications)**

---

### **7.1 Resources and Financial**

- 7.1.1 There are no resources or financial implications arising from the proposals.

### **7.2 Legal implications**

7.2.1 Internal Audit support the Council to meet its obligations under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015

7.3 **Risk**

7.3.1 There are no risks directly related to the service.

7.4 **Consultation**

7.4.1 No consultation is required

7.5 **Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny**

7.5.1 No Overview and Scrutiny comments

7.6 **Climate Impact**

7.6.1 There are not direct climate or environmental implications

7.7 **Community Impact**

7.7.1 There is no community impact

7.8 **Communications**

7.8.1 There are no recommended communications

**8. Background Papers**

---

8.1 Previous Annual Governance Statement reports to Committee.