

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM: 8</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2021</b>	<b>CATEGORY: RECOMMENDED</b>
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>HEAD OF LEGAL and DEMOCRATIC SERVICES</b>	<b>OPEN</b>
<b>MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:</b>	<b>ARDIP KAUR (01283 595715)</b> <a href="mailto:ardip.kaur@southderbyshire.gov.uk">ardip.kaur@southderbyshire.gov.uk</a>	<b>DOC:</b> h/KS/governance/AGS/2021/AGS committee report
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>DRAFT ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2020/21 - UPDATE</b>	<b>REF:</b>
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE: AS 04</b>

## **1.0 Recommendations**

- 1.1 That the Draft Annual Governance Statement (updated) for 2020/21 is approved for Audit.

## **2.0 Purpose of Report**

- 2.1 To submit the Council's Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for 2020/21 in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 (as amended).
- 2.2 This version, which was initially approved by the Committee in June 2021, is currently still in Draft. It has been updated ahead of a review by External Audit which is currently taking place.

## **3.0 Detail**

### **Background**

- 3.1 Due to the delay in External Audit undertaking their work on the 2020/21 Accounts, the AGS remains a live document and is kept under review.
- 3.2 The Statement approved by the Committee has not changed significantly, but has been updated to cover:
- On-going matters relating to Covid-19.
  - The latest report issued to the Council by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman, which was considered by the Council on 4 November 2021.

## **4.0 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 None

## **5.0 Corporate Implications**

- 5.1 Corporate governance affects the whole authority and as part of the process, all members of senior management have been consulted and made aware of its contents. Generally, senior managers are briefed at corporate meetings in respect of governance generally, together with the AGS.
- 5.2 Maintaining good governance underpins delivery of the priorities contained in the Corporate Plan.

## **6.0 Community Implications**

- 6.1 The AGS is designed to act as a public assurance statement that the Council has a sound system of corporate governance, designed to help deliver services in a proper, inclusive, open and accountable manner.