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**Subject:** **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

**Meeting and Date:** **Annual Council – 22 May 2024**

**Report of:** **Louise May, Strategic Director (Corporate and Regulatory)**

**Decision Type:** **Non-Key**

**Classification:** **Unrestricted**

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**Purpose of the report:** Under the Council's Constitution an Annual Report of the Governance Committee is required to be presented to the Annual Meeting of the Council.

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**Recommendation:** That Members note the report

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## 1. **Summary**

1.1 This report summarises the achievements of the Governance Committee against its Terms of Reference for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 and details the impact that it has made on the overall system of internal control in operation for that period.

## 2. **Introduction and Background**

2.1 The purpose of the Council's Governance Committee is to provide independent assurance of the adequacy of the risk management framework and the associated control environment. In addition, the Committee provide an independent review of the Authority's financial and non-financial performance to the extent that it affects the Authority's exposure to risk and weakens the control environment and oversees the financial reporting process, the Council's ethical standards together with service and member complaints processes.

## 3. **Annual Report**

3.1 The Annual Council meeting makes provision for the receipt of the Annual Report of the Governance Committee, detailing its work during the preceding year.

## 4. **Identification of Options**

4.1 Option 1. To receive and note the report.

4.2 Option 2. Not to note the report.

## 5. **Evaluation of Options**

5.1 Option 1 is the recommended option. The Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework identifies openness and engagement as a core principle. This annual report effectively summarises the activity of the Governance Committee during 2023/24. The Monitoring Officer has been consulted during the preparation of this report.

## 6. **Resource Implications**

6.1 None from this report.

**7. Climate Change and Environmental Implications**

7.1 There are no climate change or environmental implications arising from the report.

**8. Corporate Implications**

8.1 Comment from Accountancy: Accountancy has been consulted and has no further comment to add.

8.2 Comment from the Solicitor to the Council: The Solicitor to the Council has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no further comments to make (BD).

8.3 Comment from the Equalities Officer: The annual report for Governance Committee does not specifically highlight any equality implications, however in discharging their duties members are required to comply with the public sector equality duty as set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010  
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/section/149>

**9. Appendices**

Appendix A – Annual Report of the Governance Committee – 2023/24

**10. Background Papers**

10.1 Agenda items of the Governance Committee – 2023/24

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