

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Annual Governance Statement 2021/22 – Internal Audit Review of Managers’ Assurances</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Darren Collins, Strategic Director, Resources and Digital</b>

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### **Purpose of the Report**

- 1 The report informs the Committee of the outcome of the work by the Internal Audit and Risk Service in reviewing the assurances provided by Service Directors to inform the 2021/22 Annual Governance Statement.

### **Background**

- 2 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require an Authority to produce an Annual Governance Statement setting out its governance arrangements and reviewing their effectiveness.
- 3 The Audit and Standards Committee agreed on 7 March 2022 an assurance framework which would provide evidence for the completion of the 2021/22 Annual Governance Statement. Assurances from managers on the effectiveness of controls they have in place were a fundamental part of this framework.
- 4 Service Directors were asked to build on the work carried out in previous years and complete a self-assessment assurance statement detailing the level of assurance they felt they could place on their key control and governance processes. They were required to state whether they agreed or disagreed that the processes they had in place provided an effective level of assurance. There was also a requirement to detail the evidence to support this assessment. Internal Audit undertake an annual review of the assurance statements to ensure:
  - Where key controls are not providing a sufficient level of assurance action has been taken to address these areas; and
  - Where key controls are providing a good level of assurance, evidence exists to support this assessment.
- 5 The 2021/22 Annual Governance Statement audit was carried out using a theme-based approach across the Council. All Service Directors were required to provide evidence to support their declarations made on the Assurance Statement in response to the following questions:

- Employee compliance with legislation, regulation and the Council's Constitution and policies; and
- IT systems are secure and operate satisfactorily. Employees are fully aware of the IT Security Policy and their responsibilities.

### **Review Outcomes**

- 6 The audit concluded that systems and controls were operating well and no recommendations have been made.
- 7 The overall conclusion of this work is that the systems and processes for the completion of the Managers' Assurance Statements are effective and that they provided a good level of assurance for the 2021/22 Annual Governance Statement.

### **Recommendation**

- 8 The Committee is asked to note the report.