



## **Contextual Information**

4. The County Council is required pursuant to the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 to produce a broad-based Annual Governance Statement.
  - 4.1. Once approved by this Committee the Annual Governance Statement must be signed on behalf of the County Council by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive.
  - 4.2. The Annual Governance Statement is an important and integral part of the County Council's Corporate Governance regime.
  - 4.3. The Annual Governance Statement provides a review of the effectiveness of the County Council's internal control systems and gives assurances about how effectively they operate.
  - 4.4. Guidance supplied by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountancy (CIPFA) has been considered in the preparation of the draft Annual Governance Statement.

## **Methodology**

5. In early 2023 directorate assurance statements were sent out to all directorates seeking assurances about the directorate's governance arrangements.
  - 5.1. In March 2023 Officers performing key corporate roles on behalf of the County Council were asked to produce an appropriate position statement based on the CIPFA guidance.
  - 5.2. A copy of the emerging Annual Governance Statement has been sent to all Chief Officers, officers undertaking key corporate roles on behalf of the County Council and the Leader of the County Council for comment. The comments received have been considered in preparing the draft Annual Governance Statement in Annex 1.

## **Draft Annual Governance Statement**

6. The content of the draft Annual Government Statement follows the CIPFA guidance and has been prepared in relation to the County Council's Code of Corporate Governance. Members of this Committee now have the opportunity to comment upon it and to indicate whether or not they wish to see any amendments made.

## **7. Climate Change Impact Assessment**

- 7.1. Hampshire County Council utilises two decision-making tools to assess the carbon emissions and resilience impacts of its projects and decisions. These

tools provide a clear, robust, and transparent way of assessing how projects, policies and initiatives contribute towards the County Council's climate change targets of being carbon neutral and resilient to the impacts of a 2°C temperature rise by 2050. This process ensures that climate change considerations are built into everything the Authority does.

8. The carbon mitigation tool and/or climate change adaptation tool were not applicable because the decision is administrative in nature.

## REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

### Links to the Strategic Plan

**This proposal does not link to the Strategic Plan but, nevertheless, requires a decision because:**

The preparation and approval of an Annual Governance Statement is a Statutory Requirement.

### Other Significant Links

#### Links to previous Member decisions:

<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>

#### Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives

<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations	2015

#### Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

**The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)**

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
Delivering Good Governance in Local Government 2016 Edition	
Departmental Assurance Statements	

## **EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:**

### **1. Equality Duty**

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

### **2. Equalities Impact Assessment:**

- 2.1. No equality impacts have been identified relating to the decision recommended in this Report.

**Annual Governance Statement 2023/24  
Action Plan Log**

Action	Action Owner	Update	Date
<p>4.1 Ensuring that Risk Registers are frequently reviewed to ensure that these continue to represent the key risks the County Council are managing, that the controls identified are appropriate, and there is assurance these are being managed effectively.</p>	<p>Stephanie Randall</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Directorate risks continue to be actively managed and evaluated against the County Council’s risk management assessment criteria and are overseen by the respective Directorate Management Team (DMT). This continued focus by directorates ensures that the risks captured in their risk registers remain relevant and reflect the latest assessment and scale of risk, based on the control measures in place.</li> <li>• Further work to align risks with the new organisation structure implemented in January has also been completed, and directorates have used this as an opportunity to review and consolidate (where appropriate) their broader risk registers. This has been particularly pertinent for the newly formed directorates.</li> <li>• The membership of the Risk Management Steering Group (formally the Risk Management Board) and the three sub-groups has also been reviewed in line with organisation changes, to ensure that representation from</li> </ul>	<p>07/09/23</p>

		<p>directorates remains appropriate and includes deputies. Each group has updated their Terms of Reference, accordingly, setting out that the RMSG provides a steer on the strategic priorities or order of business, prior to formal approval through the Corporate Management Team (CMT).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To ensure accountability for managing risk remains at the highest level, CMT have dedicated time over the last six months to discuss and review in detail the key risks to the County Council. This has included:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ The regular six-monthly risk report to CMT, which provides oversight of changes to key directorate risks, as well as providing scrutiny to the Corporate Strategic Risk Register. There has been a particular focus at CMT on any directorate level risks that have 'limited' mitigation control levels, requesting that directorates scrutinise these risks, ensuring there is robust reasoning</li></ul></li></ul>	
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		<p>for any proposed as 'tolerated'.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A full review of the corporate strategic risk register, resulting in a number of risks being repositioned, with others being closed or new risks being created.</li> <li>○ Directors (as risk owners for each of the Corporate Strategic Risks) are also further developing their individual approach to how they secure assurance from relevant directorates of the effectiveness of the risk control measures in place.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Aligned with the County Councils Corporate Resilience framework and strategy (which will be reviewed during 2023), the changes to the corporate strategic risk register include the addition of a new corporate strategic risk, which focuses more holistically on the risks associated with the response and recovery from a range of emergency incidents, including those high and very</li> </ul>	
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		<p>high risks identified on the National Risk Register (e.g., pandemic, coastal flooding, cyber-attacks, and regional power supply failures). This risk captures the control measures currently in place to ensure the organisation can effectively maintain business resilience and continuity whilst responding to these types of incidents, which can often vary in terms of complexity and length, through to recovery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The annual Corporate Risk Management report, together with a confidential annual report on the Corporate Strategic Risk Register, will be presented to Cabinet in October. This will also be presented to the Audit Committee later in the year.</li> </ul>	
4.2 Ensure that there is alignment with the County Councils Corporate Resilience framework and supporting plans and to build further resilience and capability within the organisation which will safeguard our ability to provide an effective response to emerging incidents which are outside of our control.	Stephanie Randall	See above	
4.3 Audit Committees Terms of Reference will be reviewed to take account of the latest guidance issued by CIPFA	David Kelly / Neil Pitman	A working group of Key Governance Officers has been formed to take this forward and are considering changes to Terms of Reference,	21/08/23

		Training Needs, and the potential for an Annual Report.	
4.4 Review the County Council's scrutiny arrangements in the light of the new Council operating structure	David Kelly	The County Council's Scrutiny Arrangements have been reviewed and one Select Committee removed with the remaining Select Committees all moving to 17 County Council Members.	07/09/23
4.5 Develop a Business Continuity exercise policy over 23/24 alongside the new directorate Bronze Plan designed to ensure plans and scenarios are tested on a regular basis, and that the lessons learned from them are documented and actioned	Mike Bridgeman	<p>Universal Service Bronze plan has been drafted in collaboration with USDMT. Due to be signed-off in Q3 23/24.</p> <p>- Planning an initial exercise at DMT Level in October 2023, subject to Emergency Planning resource;</p> <p>- A further programme of exercises will be informed by US Service Recovery Plans. These plans are in the process of being updated first, with a programme of exercises likely to commence in Q4.</p>	07/09/23
4.6 Adults' Health and Care will strengthen further its approach to care governance and quality assurance by implementing a phased, internal self-assessment	Marianne Mitchell	<p>AHC have begun its internal self-assessment process, the internal self-assessment is based on the CQC's Single Assessment Framework and encompasses all four domains and nine quality statements.</p> <p>Currently two of the nine quality statements have completed the self-assessment process, which included scrutiny through the self-assessment external executive group. Action plans have been drawn together following the</p>	21/08/23

		<p>assessment and will monitored by the Care Governance Board.</p> <p>Three further domains are currently in progress and due for submission at the end of August. It is planned that the initial round of self-assessment will be completed by the early 2024 and that following this AHC will take part in a LGA peer review.</p>	
4.7 CareDirector / Go live Implementation to support the improvement in the recording of client data.	Sarah Snowdon	<p>On plan for November go live</p> <p>Director of Corporate Operations and Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Adults Health and Care are receiving monthly exec updates via corporate assurance and are key to go no go decisions between now and November</p> <p>No change to go live date at this time</p>	21/08/23