

Board/Committee:	Policy and Organisation Board
Date of Meeting:	25 th November 2020
Title:	Annual Governance Statement 2019/20
Author:	Chief Internal Auditor
Status:	FOR APPROVAL

Purpose

To seek approval from Members in regards to the draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS) 2019/20

Recommendations

- a. That the Policy and Organisation Board approve the Annual Governance Statement 2019/20, following the approval from the Standards and Governance Committee on July 9th 2020.

1. Background & Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Policy and Organisation Board with an overview of the governance arrangements in place at the Council.
- 1.2 The annual governance statement forms part of the Council's Statement of Accounts.
- 1.3 The authority has a duty to produce and publish an Annual Governance Statement (AGS). This sets out how Gosport Borough Council has complied with the Local Code of Governance, and how the authority meets the requirements of Regulation 4 (3) of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011
- 1.4 The Annual Governance Statement also includes the annual opinion on the effectiveness of the internal system of control from the Chief Internal Auditor
- 1.5 Due to the timing of COVID-19 Pandemic, the AGS makes reference to the potential governance issues which may have arisen in the financial year 2019/20, however as the pandemic is still ongoing, it has not yet been possible to evaluate the impact dealing with the pandemic has had on governance
- 1.6 Therefore, the AGS for 2019/20 will be revisited later in the year once further post COVID-19 assurance and governance evaluations have been completed.

2. Report

- 2.1 Appendix A is the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) 2019/20.

3. Conclusion

3.1 That the Board approve the draft Annual Governance Statement 2019/20.

Financial Services comments:	Nil
Legal Services comments:	Nil
Crime and Disorder:	Nil
Equality and Diversity:	Nil
Service Improvement Plan implications:	The delivery of the Annual Governance Statement is a key function of the service.
Corporate Plan:	It supports the Council in pursuit of excellence through delivering an effective and high quality governance evaluation and monitoring.
Risk Assessment:	Not to take this action would have legal, governance, and risk management implications for the Council
Background papers:	None
Appendices/Enclosures:	Appendix A – Annual Governance Statement 2019/20
Report author/ Lead Officer:	Paul Somerset - Chief Internal Auditor