

Agenda Item No: 7

Report To: **Audit Committee**

Date of Meeting: **21 March 2022**

Report Title: **2022/23 Annual Governance Statement**

**Report Author &
Job Title:** Abi Sheppard
Policy and Scrutiny Officer



Summary: Each year the council must produce and approve an Annual Governance Statement (AGS). The AGS designed to summarise the council's approach to governance and show how the council fulfils the principles for good corporate governance in the public sector. The AGS needs to draw conclusions, based on evidence throughout the past year, about the effectiveness of the council's arrangements.

Our governance arrangements are well-developed but they also evolve. Their various components are subject to ongoing development, which are summarised in the AGS.

In conclusion governance arrangements remain appropriate, effective and adaptive to change as circumstances dictate.

Purpose of the report:

1. To provide the Audit Committee with assurance on the effectiveness of the council's governance arrangements over the last year.
2. To provide details of those additional areas where the organisation's governance will develop further over the forthcoming year.
3. Once approved, the AGS is signed by the Leader and the Chief Executive and included alongside the council's Statement of Accounts.

Recommendations: **The Audit Committee is asked to approve the 2022/23 Annual Governance Statement**

Contact: Abi Sheppard, Policy and Scrutiny Officer
Abi.sheppard@ashford.gov.uk

Charlotte Hammersley, Head of Policy and Performance,
Charlotte.hammersley@ashford.gov.uk