

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>AUDIT COMMITTEE</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Mark Towers - Director of Governance and Partnerships
<b>Meeting:</b>	21 July 2022

## ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2021/22

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Audit Committee with the opportunity to review and approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2021/22.

One approved the Annual Governance Statement will be published as part of the Council's Statement of Accounts. It will also be shared with the Senior Leadership Team.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To consider and approve the draft Annual Governance Statement for 2021/22.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations (2015) require the Council to conduct a review on the effectiveness of its system of internal control and publish an Annual Governance Statement reporting on the review with the Statement of Accounts.

3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

### 4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 N/A.

### 5.0 Council priority:

5.1 The Annual Governance Statement is relevant to all Council priorities.

### 6.0 Background information

6.1 Blackpool Council is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards. It needs to ensure that public money is safeguarded, properly accounted for and used economically, efficiently and effectively.

The CIPFA Delivering Good Governance publication (2016) defines the various principles of good governance in the public sector and how they relate to each other and are defined as:

- Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values and respecting the rule of law.
- Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement.
- Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits.
- Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes.
- Developing the Council's capacity, including its leadership and the individuals within it.
- Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management.
- Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting and audit, to deliver effective accountability.

The governance framework at Blackpool Council comprises the systems and processes, culture and values which the Council has adopted in order to deliver on the above principles. The system of internal control is a significant part of the framework and is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level. It cannot eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies and objectives and can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness.

The governance framework incorporated into this report has been in place at Blackpool Council for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 and up to the date of the approval for the statement of accounts for that year.

6.2 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

**7.0 List of Appendices:**

7.1 Appendix 7(a): Annual Governance Statement 2021/22

**8.0 Financial considerations:**

8.1 Each of the actions identified in the Annual Governance Statement will be delivered within the constraints of the agreed budget for 2022/23.

**9.0 Legal considerations:**

9.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations (2015) require the Council to conduct a review, at least once a year, on the effectiveness of its system of internal control and include an Annual Governance Statement reporting on the review with the Statement of Accounts.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 Risk management and the control environment have been considered throughout the draft of the Annual Governance Statement 2021/22.

**11.0 Equalities considerations:**

11.1 Equality analysis should have been undertaken, where necessary, when decisions were made in relation to the identification of the actions identified in this document.

**12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:**

12.1 Sustainability, climate change and environmental matters should have been considered, where necessary, when decisions were made in relation to the identification of the actions identified in this document.

**13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:**

13.1 Consultation has been undertaken with the Good Governance Group, Extended Corporate Leadership and elected members who have a key role in governance.

**14.0 Background papers:**

14.1 N/A.