

Meeting: Audit Committee **Date:** 24 July 2024

Wards affected: All

Report Title: Annual Governance Statement 2023/24

When does the decision need to be implemented? Immediately

Cabinet Member Contact Details: Councillor David Thomas, Leader of the Council,
david.thomas@torbay.gov.uk

Director/Divisional Director Contact Details: Matthew Fairclough-Kay, Director of Corporate Services matthew.fairclough-kay@torbay.gov.uk

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The preparation of the Annual Governance Statement provides the opportunity for the organisation to review its processes, controls and objectives and to provide assurance to Members, Senior Officers and stakeholders as to the reliability of its Statement of Accounts and the probity of its operations.
- 1.2 The Annual Governance Statement fulfils the statutory requirement in England for a local authority to conduct a review at least once in each financial year of the effectiveness of its system of internal control and to include a statement reporting on the review with its Statement of Accounts.

2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

- 2.1 The Statement sets out publicly the extent to which the Council complies with its own code of corporate governance (part of the codes and protocols of the Constitution), including how it monitored and evaluated the effectiveness of its governance arrangements in the year.
- 2.2 The reason for the decision is to meet the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations.

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

1. That the draft Annual Governance Statement for 2023/2024 be agreed and forwarded to the External Auditors for comment.

Appendices: Appendix 1: Draft Annual Governance Statement 2023/2024

Supporting Information

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Annual Governance Statement for 2023/24 has been prepared and, if agreed by Audit Committee, will be sent to External Auditors with the Annual Statement of Accounts for comment to be finally approved by Audit Committee later in the year.
- 1.2 Regulations require every local authority to include in their annual Statement of Accounts an Annual Governance Statement signed by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive. CIPFA set out how the format that each Annual Governance Statement should follow.

2. Options under consideration

Not applicable

3. Financial Opportunities and Implications

- 3.1 There are no financial commitments to the council beyond the officer time involved in collating this report.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 Regulation 6(1)(a) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require an authority to conduct a review at least once in a year of the effectiveness of its system of internal control and include a statement reporting on the review with any published Statement of Accounts.

5. Engagement and Consultation

- 5.1 The Statement is prepared with information from Officers, Senior Officers and Internal Audit reports. It has been reviewed by the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council.

6. Purchasing or Hiring of Goods and/or Services

Not applicable

7. Tackling Climate Change

Not applicable

8. Associated Risks

8.1 That the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations are not adequately met.

9. Equality Impacts - Identify the potential positive and negative impacts on specific groups

	Positive Impact	Negative Impact & Mitigating Actions	Neutral Impact
Older or younger people			There is no differential impact.
People with caring Responsibilities			There is no differential impact.
People with a disability			There is no differential impact.
Women or men			There is no differential impact.
People who are black or from a minority ethnic background (BME) (Please note Gypsies / Roma are within this community)			There is no differential impact.
Religion or belief (including lack of belief)			There is no differential impact.
People who are lesbian, gay or bisexual			There is no differential impact.
People who are transgendered			There is no differential impact.
People who are in a marriage or civil partnership			There is no differential impact.
Women who are pregnant / on maternity leave			There is no differential impact.
Socio-economic impacts (Including impact on child poverty issues and deprivation)			There is no differential impact.
Public Health impacts (How will your proposal			There is no differential impact.

impact on the general health of the population of Torbay)			
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10. Cumulative Council Impact

None.

11. Cumulative Community Impacts

None.