



**REPORT of
DIRECTOR OF STRATEGY, PERFORMANCE AND GOVERNANCE**

**to
PERFORMANCE, GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE
30 JULY 2020**

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To provide an Annual Governance Statement for review and adoption.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) To approve the Annual Governance Statement at **APPENDIX A**;
- (ii) That the Performance, Governance and Audit Committee monitor the progress of the action plan;
- (iii) That a quarterly report of Annual Governance actions is provided for Performance, Governance and Audit committee review.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 The Annual Governance Statement for Maldon District Council (MDC) has been re-designed according to the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CPFA) best practice, and following officer attendance at training for best ways to write the annual governance statement.
- 3.2 The new format reviews the criteria for good governance and the activity that has taken place within these criteria over the 2019-20 financial year, as well as the internal audit statement/ review of the year.
- 3.3 The document also highlights areas where further improvements could be made to improve governance and work to do as new practices emerge, such as the Financial Management Code.
- 3.4 It is provided as separate to the statement of accounts for the first time at Maldon District Council, for the authority to recognise the importance of the document in supporting our governance arrangements, which underpin the way our financial reporting is produced.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The Annual Governance Statement template has been revised to bring it in line with the latest criteria for good governance in local government and CIPFA best practice. It is presented with a process to track it quarterly as a live governance document at Performance, Governance and Audit committee, and strengthens our approach to governance.

5. IMPACT ON STRATEGIC THEMES

- 5.1 A strengthened approach to governance will underpin more robust challenge on performance of the strategic plan.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – Better governance approach allows us to deliver better services for our customers.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – n/a
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – good governance includes good risk management and will have a positive impact.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – n/a
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – n/a
- (vi) **Impact on the Environment** – n/a
- (vii) **Impact on Strengthening Communities** – n/a

Background Papers: Appendix A- final AGS

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