

Committee(s): Audit & Risk Management	Dated: 13 May 2024
Subject: Annual Governance Statement (City Fund) 2023/24	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	All
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Chief Strategy Officer	For Decision
Report author: Barbara Hook, Town Clerks Department	

Summary

This report presents the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) 2023/24, which is published alongside the 2023/24 City Fund and Pension Fund Statement of Accounts, as required by the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 and prepared in accordance with practice guidance: "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government" (issued jointly by the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers and the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy).

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- Consider and approve the AGS, at Appendix 1, for signing by the Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee and the Town Clerk and Chief Executive
- Note that the AGS will be published alongside the 2023/24 City Fund and Pension Fund Statement of Accounts
- Delegate authority to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairmen of this Committee, to amend the AGS for any relevant significant events or developments that occur prior to the date on which the Statement of Accounts is signed by the Chamberlain.

Main Report

Background

1. This report presents the City Corporation's Annual Governance Statement (AGS) (City Fund) 2023-24, required by The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 which apply to the City of London's City Fund activities. Specifically, as an audited body, the City Corporation must conduct a review each financial year of the effectiveness of its system of internal control and publish an AGS, alongside the authority's Statement of Accounts.
2. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), in association with the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers (SOLACE), publishes a Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework and an accompanying guidance note, which represents the proper practice guidance in relation to this.
3. The AGS must be signed by the most senior officer (Chief Executive or equivalent) and the most senior Member (Leader or equivalent). Following a resolution of this Committee in March 2012, the Policy and Resources Committee approved a report on the process for producing the AGS, and approved the practice whereby the AGS is approved by this Committee and signed by the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee.
4. The Audit and Risk Management Committee has a key role within the 'review of effectiveness' of the City's governance framework, including the system of internal control. One of its prime responsibilities is to review the work of the internal auditors, consider the risk management framework, and consider comments made by the external auditors and other review agencies and inspectorates.

Current Position

5. The intended purpose of the AGS is to describe what steps the organisation has taken to evaluate the adequacy and effectiveness of its systems of governance and provide an overall conclusion thereon.
6. The AGS at Appendix 1 seeks to enable public accessibility and to help drive improvement in the Corporation's overall effectiveness, as allowed for by CIPFA guidance. Changes to the AGS format for the 2023-24 year are the addition of more performance indicators (paragraph 10) and detail on the identified actions that are to be taken during 2024-25 year and the Chief Officer who has Lead responsibility (paragraph 43). All Chief Officers will contribute to the delivery of these actions. The Chief Officer with Lead responsibility will ensure that delivery is joined up across the City Corporation.
7. The AGS was reviewed by the Executive Leadership Board in April 2024.
8. In accordance with the practice adopted in previous years, Members are asked to delegate authority to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and

Deputy Chairmen of this Committee, to amend the AGS for any relevant significant events or developments that occur prior to the date on which the Statement of Accounts is signed by the Chamberlain. Publication of the Statement of Accounts is due by 31st May.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Strategic implications – Publication of an Annual Governance Statement (City Fund) alongside the Annual Statement of Accounts (City Fund) is a statutory requirement and, as such, supports delivery of the Corporate Plan outcomes.

Financial implications - None

Resource implications - None

Legal implications - None

Risk implications - None

Equalities implications – None

Climate implications - None

Security implications - None

Conclusion

9. Members are asked to consider and approve the AGS, prepared in accordance with the requirements of The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and associated recognised practice guidance. Once approved by this Committee, the AGS will be presented to the Town Clerk and Chief Executive and Chair of Policy and Resources for signature and will subsequently be published alongside the financial statements for the City Fund and Pension Fund.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Draft Annual Governance Statement (City Fund) 2023-24

Barbara Hook

Assistant Director Corporate Planning, Town Clerks Department

E: barbara.hook@cityoflondon.gov.uk

T: 07394573808