

Audit and Governance Committee



Date of meeting:	22 July 2025
Title of Report:	Annual Governance Statement 2024/25
Lead Member:	Councillor Tudor Evans, OBE, Leader
Lead Strategic Director:	Ian Trisk-Grove, Service Director for Finance (S. 151 Officer)
Author:	Jamie Sheldon (Senior Governance Advisor)
Contact Email:	jamie.sheldon@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	AGS24/25
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the Annual Governance Statement, copy attached to this report at Appendix A, is to provide evidence of a continuous review of the Council's internal control and risk management processes, to provide assurance as to their effectiveness and to identify action being taken or planned to address any key weaknesses identified. It is a statutory document required by Accounts and Audit Regulations

Recommendations and Reasons

The Committee is recommended to approve the Annual Governance Statement, alongside the Statement of Accounts, prior to signature by the Leader, Chief Executive and Service Director for Finance (S.151 Officer).

Alternative options considered and rejected

None – The Accounts and Audit Regulations 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.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

Maintaining sound systems of internal control and risk management enables the Council to monitor and review the key risks that may prevent it from achieving its corporate and service objectives.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

Adherence to the Code of Corporate Governance, and development of the framework in place, plays a foundational role in supporting the delivery of the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) by embedding principles of good governance into financial decision-making and strategic planning.

Financial Risks:

None directly arising from this report.

Legal Implication:

None.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

None.

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

** When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.*

The Risk and Opportunity Management Strategy specifically supports the processes which underpin the production of the Annual Governance Statement.

Appendices

**Add rows as required to box below*

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Annual Governance Statement							

Background papers:

**Add rows as required to box below*

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable)						
	<i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Ian Trisk-Grove, S. 151 Officer and Service director for Finance											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes											
Date agreed: 16/07/2025											
Cabinet Member approval: <i>Councillor Tudor Evans OBE (Leader of the Council)</i>											
Date approved: 16/07/2025											