



AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 22 September 2020

SUFFOLK COASTAL DISTRICT COUNCIL AND WAVENEY DISTRICT COUNCIL CONCLUDING ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT LETTER 2018/19

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Annual Governance Statements (AGS) for Suffolk Coastal DC and Waveney DC were approved by the authorities' Audit and Governance Committees on 12 March 2019 and 15 March 2019 respectively. These Statements provided assurance for the period 1 April 2018 to 31 January 2019.
2. In order to comply with Boundary Changes Regulations, the Council is required to report on any material inaccuracy or omission from the approved AGS for the period 1 February 2019 to 31 March 2019, or any matter relevant to internal control on or after the reorganisation date.
3. This report presents to the Committee the letter that provides assurance that there is no movement on the wording and assurance levels as stated in the 2018/19 Annual Governance Statements.

Is the report Open or Exempt?	Open
Wards Affected:	All Wards in East Suffolk
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Maurice Cook Cabinet Member with responsibility for Resources
Supporting Officer:	Simon Taylor Chief Finance Officer and Section 151 Officer 01394 444570 simon.taylor@eastsoffolk.gov.uk

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Annual Governance Statement is a key document which helps provide assurance to Members and other stakeholders as to how the governance of the Council is conducted, how effective it has been for the year, and identifies any major issues of improvement raised by the Corporate Management Team, together with emerging issues upon which the Council will need to focus on over the coming year.

2 CONCLUDING ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT LETTER 2018/19

- 2.1 The Annual Governance Statements (AGS) for Suffolk Coastal DC and Waveney DC were approved by the authorities' Audit and Governance Committees on 12 March 2019 and 15 March 2019 respectively. These Statements provided assurance for the period 1 April 2018 to 31 January 2019.
- 2.2 In order to comply with Boundary Changes Regulations, the Council is required to report on any material inaccuracy or omission from the approved AGS for the period 1 February 2019 to 31 March 2019, or any matter relevant to internal control on or after the reorganisation date.
- 2.3 Attached as Appendix A is the Concluding Annual Governance Letter 2018/19 that provides assurance that there is no movement on the wording and assurance levels as stated in the 2018/19 Annual Governance Statements. This letter was sent to EY, the Council's external auditor, on 8 July 2019.

3 CONSULTATION

- 3.1 There are no formal consultation requirements for this document. All Heads of Service have been consulted to provide assurance in the letter for the period 1 February 2019 to 31 March 2019.

4 HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO THE EAST SUFFOLK BUSINESS PLAN?

- 4.1 The AGS is a statutory requirement by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. The AGS helps to achieve the critical success factors and planned actions set out in the Business Plan.

5 FINANCIAL AND GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The AGS and the Concluding Letter provide evidence of good governance in respect of the predecessor councils of East Suffolk Council.

6 OTHER KEY ISSUES

- 6.1 None.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 7.1 None.

8 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

The production and consideration of the AGS is a statutory requirement under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and the Concluding Letter is a requirement under the Local Government (Boundary Changes) Regulations 2018.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee notes the Concluding Annual Governance Statement Letter for the year ended 31st March 2019 in respect of Suffolk Coastal District Council and Waveney District Council.

APPENDICES**Appendix A**

Concluding Annual Governance Statement Letter 2018/19

BACKGROUND PAPERS – none