

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE REVIEW 2020/21

Summary: To present the annual review of the Board's Corporate Governance Framework for 2020/21.

Recommendation: That the Executive Committee agrees the Corporate Governance Review and recommends for approval by the Board.

Report by: Ann Wyatt – Head of Finance

Background

1. The Board is required to carry out an annual review of the effectiveness of its systems of internal control which facilitates the effective exercise of the Board's functions and includes arrangements for the management of risk.
2. In June 2012, the Board adopted a revised Code of Corporate Governance and Framework, with further amendments in 2014. The Framework is used as the basis for this review.
3. As in previous years, officers carried out the review using their knowledge and experience, and information from documents and processes, audits and risk reports, together with observations from members, officers and partners.
4. The external auditor's report and opinion for 2019/20 were reported to Board in February 2021 and the Executive Committee has reviewed the 2020/21 Annual Internal Audit Report and opinions as part of the agenda for the current meeting.
5. The results of this process are set out in Appendix A, which indicates that the Board has sound systems of internal control. Appropriate issues arising from the review have been identified and disclosed, and actions proposed as appropriate.
6. The formal Annual Governance Statement, which forms Section 1 of the statutory Annual Governance and Accountability Return, will be reviewed under Agenda Item 7.

Summary

7. Officers have completed the statutory annual review of the organisation's governance arrangements and the review has concluded that the Board has sound systems of internal control, and that any issues are being addressed appropriately.
8. The most significant forward items for the Board relate to continued uncertainty due to COVID and to the review of National Park and AONB status.

Supporting Papers

Appendix A. Review of Governance Framework 2020/21

MAY 2021