

REVIEW OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2019/20

Summary: To present the annual review of the Board's Corporate Governance Framework and the Annual Governance Statement 2019/20.

Recommendations:

- (a) That the Committee agrees the Corporate Governance Review, and the Annual Governance Statement 2019/20; and that
- (b) the Committee recommends these for approval by Board.

Officer Ref: Andy Parsons (Chief Executive)

Key Issues

- 1. Board Officers have completed their statutory annual review of the organisation's governance arrangements.
- 2. The review has concluded that the Board has sound systems of internal control, and that any issues are being addressed appropriately.
- 3. The most significant forward items for the Board relate to its response to the current pandemic; and to the review of National Park and AONB status.

Background

- 4. The Board is required to carry out an annual review of the effectiveness of its system of internal control, which facilitates the effective exercise of the Board's functions and which includes arrangements for the management of risk.
- 5. 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.
- 6. 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.
- 7. In addition, the external auditor's report and opinion for 2018/19 were reported to Board in December 2019, and its findings have been addressed in full. Also, the Executive Committee has reviewed the 2019/20 Annual Internal Audit Report and opinions as part of the agenda for the current meeting.

8. 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.
9. The formal Annual Governance Statement, which forms Section 1 of the statutory Annual Governance and Accountability Return, is attached at Appendix B. It contains a series of statements which the Board is asked to approve. Board Officers believe that the answer to all of the points should be in the affirmative.

Supporting Papers:

Appendix A - Review of Corporate Governance Framework 2019/20

Appendix B - Annual Governance Statement 2019/20