

DRAFT MEMORANDUM TO THE SIGNATORIES OF THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

You will be aware that in line with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 and associated good practice guidance that all local authorities are required to prepare as part of the preparation of the Annual Accounts an “Annual Governance Statement”. At the heart of the Annual Governance Statement is a requirement to reflect how the Council conducts its business, both internally and in its dealing with others. In line with good practice it is appropriate that the Leader, and the Chief Executive be required to sign off the Governance Statement, with the signed copy appearing alongside the Council’s Published Accounts.

As the Chair of the Audit and Corporate Governance Scrutiny Committee and the Council’s Responsible Financial and Legal officers we have given appropriate consideration to the Governance Statement that is attached. We are satisfied that it meets the requirements of the relevant legislation, and that it gives the reader a true and fair view of the current position within North East Derbyshire District Council. In arriving at this statement we have taken into account the available evidence, and have put in place appropriate mechanisms to allow informed challenge of this document to take place.

In particular we have placed reliance on the following:

- We have considered the current policies and procedures in place at the Council against the good practice guidance issues by CIPFA / SOLACE and have concluded that the Council’s arrangements are fit for purpose when benchmarked against these criteria
- We have considered all of the findings or outcomes of the reports presented by our External Auditors, by other external inspections or by Peer Review, and from Internal Audit. Where these reviews have resulted in an unfavourable conclusion with significant risk attached this has been taken forward by inclusion in the Key Issues of Financial Governance report which is presented to all meetings of the Audit Committee.
- The Governance Statement that is presented here has been compiled by the Head of Finance & Resources (S151 Officer) and the Monitoring Officer and has been commented on by senior Council Officers.
- The contents of the Governance Statement have been agreed with the Senior Management team.
- Portfolio Members of the Cabinet have been provided with the opportunity to comment.
- The statement was agreed by the Council’s Audit and Corporate Governance Scrutiny Committee at its meeting of 22 September 2021.

In the light of the above we consider that it is reasonable to request that you sign the attached Governance Statement. We are satisfied that the contents of the Governance Statement are supported from the evidence collected within the Assurance Statement, and is in line with the issues identified in the Key Issues of Financial Governance Statement. Furthermore, we believe that the Statement has been appropriately prepared by Council officers, and that it has been through a range of challenge mechanisms which ensure that there is effective corporate ownership of the Statement.

Councillor Martin Thacker MBE
Chair of the Audit and Corporate Governance Scrutiny Committee

Jayne Dethick
Chief Financial Officer

Sarah Sternberg
Monitoring Officer