



Borough of Telford and Wrekin

Cabinet

14 May 2026

Annual Governance Statement 2025/26

Cabinet Member:	Cllr Zona Hannington – Cabinet Member: Finance, Governance & Customer Services	
Lead Director:	Anthea Lowe – Director: Policy & Governance	
Service Area:	Policy & Governance	
Report Author:	Anthea Lowe – Director: Policy & Governance	
Officer Contact Details:	Tel: 01952 383219	Email: anthea.lowe@telford.gov.uk
Wards Affected:	All Wards	
Key Decision:	Not Key Decision	
Forward Plan:	Not applicable	

1 Recommendations for decision/noting:

- 1.1 It is recommended that Cabinet approves the Annual Governance Statement 2025/26, attached as **Appendix A** to this report.

2 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to present, for approval, the Annual Governance Statement (“AGS”) for the year 2025/26, in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

3 Background

- 3.1 The Council is required, under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, to conduct an annual review of the effectiveness of its system of internal control and to prepare

an AGS to accompany the statement of Accounts. It is best practice that the AGS is signed by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive.

3.2 The AGS for 2025/26 has been developed in line with guidance produced by the Chartered Institute for Public Finance and Accountancy (“CIPFA”) and the society of Local Authority Chief Executives (“SOLACE”) and reflects the arrangements that operated during the period from 1 April 2025 to 21 March 2026. The AGS includes an action plan to ensure continuous development, learning and improvement in respect of the Council’s governance arrangements.

3.3 The action plan from the previous AGS has been reviewed. Actions that have been completed, or mainstreamed, during 2025/26 have been removed with any ongoing actions included within the 2025/26 action plan.

3.4 The AGS and the Local Code of Good Governance confirm that the Council has a robust governance framework in place, supported by effective risk management and appropriate and sound systems of internal control. During 2025/26, governance arrangements have continued to operate effectively. Where any changes have been required to maintain robust governance, these have been agreed by the Senior Management Team and, where required, approved through democratic processes.

3.5 Assurance for the AGS is provided by:-

- The Leader and Chief Executive;
- Senior Management Team;
- Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer);
- Monitoring Officer;
- Members through scrutiny, Governance Committee and Audit Committee;
- Internal Audit activity;
- External Audit activity;
- Partners; and
- External inspection bodies.

3.6 In respect of external audit activity, it should be noted that the auditors gave an unqualified opinion and that the statement of accounts was published ahead of the national backstop date and within the statutory timescale.

3.7 Furthermore, due to robust financial management, the Council ended the year within budget, as it has done for more than 15 years.

4 Summary of main proposals

4.1 Members are asked to approve the AGS for 2025/26.

5 Alternative Options

- 5.1 Whilst it is open to Cabinet not to approve the attached document, this is not recommended as it would not represent good governance, nor would it be in compliance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 or good practice set out by CIPFA and SOLACE.

6 Key Risks

- 6.1 If approved, there are no risks directly associated with this report.

7.0 Council Priorities

- 7.1 This report supports the Council's priority of delivering a community-focused, innovative Council providing efficient, effective and quality services.

8.0 Financial Implications

- 8.1 Robust governance arrangements underpin sound financial management, support the delivery of value for money and effective decision-making. Compliance with financial regulations, the Medium-Term Financial Strategy and Treasury Management Strategy supports the Council's financial sustainability.

9.0 Legal and HR Implications

- 9.1 The Council is required to comply with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, which mandate the production and approval of an Annual Governance Statement. This report and its Appendices satisfy that legal requirement. The actions contained within the action plan will be delivered from within existing resources.

10.0 Ward Implications

- 10.1 The Annual Governance Statement applies to all wards within the Borough.

11.0 Health, Social and Economic Implications

- 11.1 Whilst there are no direct health, social or economic implications associated with this report, the measures of internal control provide assurance that the Council complies with its statutory duties.

12.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

- 12.1 Whilst there are no direct equality and diversity implications associated with this report, the contents of the AGS demonstrate that the Council complies with its statutory duties.

13.0 Climate Change and Environmental Implications

13.1 There are no direct climate change or environmental implications associated with this report.

14.0 Appendices

A Annual Governance Statement 2025/26

15.0 Report Sign Off

Signed off by	Date sent	Date signed off	Initials
Finance	20/04/2026	20/04/2026	MLB
Legal	20/04/2026	20/04/2026	RP