



Report of: **Executive Member for Finance and Resources**

Meeting of	Date	Agenda Item	Ward(s)
Audit Committee	4 th June 2015		

Delete as appropriate		Non-exempt	
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SUBJECT: Draft Annual Governance Statement 2014/15

1.Synopsis

- 1.1.An annual report on the Council’s governance arrangements is published with the Statement of Accounts as the Annual Governance Statement (AGS).
- 1.2.This report sets out the Draft AGS for 2014/15 as Appendix A.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1.Audit Committee is asked to note the contents of the draft Annual Governance Statement ahead of final presentation with the annual accounts in September 2015.

3. Background

- 3.1.In discharging this overall responsibility, the Council is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs and facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, which includes arrangements for the management of risk. The Council has approved and adopted a code of corporate governance which is consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE framework Delivering Good Governance in Local Government.

3.2. The Annual Governance Statement explains how the Council has complied with the code and also meets the requirements of regulation 4(3) of Part 2 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011 in relation to the publication of an Annual Governance Statement. In line with the CIPFA/SOLACE framework, this statement is “an open and honest self-assessment” of the Council’s performance across all of its activities and

- Describes the key elements of the Council's governance arrangements, covering all corporate systems and the range of activities for which the Council is responsible;
- Describes processes applied in reviewing their effectiveness; and
- Lists actions proposed to deal with significant governance issues identified

4. Implications

4.1. Financial implications

A sound system of internal controls forms a significant part of the framework and is essential to underpin the effective use of resources

4.2. Legal Implications

Regulation 4(3) of Part 2 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011 requires the Council to conduct an annual review of its system of internal control and following the review, the Council must approve an annual governance statement, prepared in accordance with proper practices in relation to internal control.

4.3. Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications

4.4. Equality Impact Assessment

There are no direct equality implications arising from the recommendation in this report

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

5.1. The Draft Annual Governance Statement, attached as Appendix A, reports on the Council’s governance arrangements and control environment and once approved will form part of the Statement of Accounts.

Appendices

Appendix A: Draft Annual Governance Statement 2014/15

Final Report Clearance

Signed by
Corporate Director of Finance Date

Received by
Head of Democratic Services Date

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