

Committee:	Performance Select Committee	Agenda Item
Date:	24 June 2008	5
Title:	Annual Governance Statement 2007/08	
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Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the Annual Governance Statement for inclusion into the Council's published financial accounts for 2007/08.

Recommendations

That Members approved the Annual Governance Statement for inclusion in the Council's published financial accounts for 2007/08.

Background Papers

Annual Governance Statement - appendix 1

UDC Assurance framework – appendix 2

Impact

Communication/Consultation	This report has been circulated to the Strategic Management Board
Community Safety	None identified
Equalities	None identified
Finance	None identified
Human Rights	None identified
Legal implications	This is a requirement set out in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 as amended by the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2006 in relation to the publication of an Annual Governance Statement.
Sustainability	None identified
Ward-specific impacts	None identified
Workforce/Workplace	None identified

Situation

Under the Council’s constitution this committee is responsible for overseeing the Council’s work around corporate governance. In 2007/08 the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) revised the approach to corporate governance and published a new framework for good governance. This builds on the current assurance gathering process but it requires a lot more descriptive detail to be included in the actual Statement.

For the first time this year an Annual Governance Statement is a requisite part of the published statement of accounts and replaces the previous Statement on the System of Internal Control. One of the previous good practice recommendations is that this Statement should be considered separate to the published accounts, which will come to the June meeting of this committee.

The Annual Governance Statement in appendix 1 has been drawn up based on the frame work in appendix 2

Evidence in support of the Annual Governance Statement is being prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Finance Advisory Network guidance for examination by the Audit Commission as part of their 2007/08 Audit.

At the September meeting of this Committee, it is proposed to present a timetable and framework for the review and monitoring of control and governance issues identified in the 2007/08 Annual Governance Statement and for the preparation of the 2008/09 Statement.

Risk Analysis

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
No Annual Governance Statement is produced for inclusion in the Financial Accounts	1 = Little or no likelihood Timetable and Framework to be established for the review, monitoring and preparation of the Annual Governance Statement	3 = Significant impact – action required Statutory requirement, adverse Audit Commission Report	The Annual governance Statement is reviewed by the Audit Commission and by the Performance Select Committee