

**Committee: Performance & Audit Committee**

**Agenda Item**

**Date: 22 July 2014**

**5**

**Title: Annual Governance statement 2013/14**

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Item for decision

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## Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the Annual Governance Statement published to complement the Council's financial accounts 2013/14

## Recommendations

2. That Members approve the draft Annual Governance Statement 2013/14

## Financial Implications

3. None. There are no costs associated with this report.

## Background Papers

4. None

## Impact

- 5.

Communication/Consultation	The draft Annual Governance Statement 2013/14 has been approved by the Corporate Management Team
Community Safety	none
Equalities	none
Health and Safety	none
Human Rights/Legal Implications	none
Sustainability	none
Ward-specific impacts	none
Workforce/Workplace	none

## Situation

6. Under the Council's constitution this committee is responsible for overseeing the Council's work around corporate governance. In 2012 the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) reviewed and revised the approach to corporate governance and in November 2012 published a new framework for good governance. The new guidance builds on the previous assurance gathering process requiring authorities to review the effectiveness of its governance arrangements against the key elements of the systems and processes that compromise an authority's governance.

The Annual Governance Statement is required to be published to complement the published statement of accounts. One of the previous good practice recommendations is that this Statement should be considered separately to the published accounts.

The Annual Governance Statement 2013/14 (appendix A) has been prepared in consultation with senior offices and using information from the 2012/13 Annual Governance Statement which has been reviewed and updated to reflect the operation of the Council during 2013/14. A copy of the CIPFA Guidance 2012 and the draft Annual Governance Statement 2013/14 showing changes from the 2012/13 statement is available to Members on request.

The statement has been agreed by the Corporate Management Team at its meeting on 01 May 2013.

Evidence in support of the Annual Governance Statement is being prepared in accordance with the CIPFA for examination by the External Auditors as part of their 2013/14 Audit and will be available to members on request.

## Risk Analysis

7.

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 External Auditor Report	The Annual governance Statement is reviewed by the External Auditor and by the Performance & Audit Committee

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.