

Committee: Performance & Audit Committee

Agenda Item

Date: 30 July 2015

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Title: Annual Governance statement 2014/15

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Item for decision

Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the Annual Governance Statement published to complement the Council's Statement of Accounts 2014/15

Recommendations

2. That Members approve the draft Annual Governance Statement 2014/15

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 2014/15 has been approved by the Corporate Management Team and published with the draft Statement of Accounts in June 2015
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 2014/15 (appendix A) has been prepared in consultation with senior officers and using information from the 2013/14 Annual Governance Statement, which has been reviewed and updated to reflect the operation of the Council during 2014/15. A copy of the CIPFA Guidance 2012 and the draft Annual Governance Statement 2014/15 showing changes from the 2013/14 statement is available to Members on request.

The statement has been agreed by the Corporate Management Team at its meeting on 17 June 2015.

Evidence in support of the Annual Governance Statement has being prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Guidance for examination by the External Auditors as part of their 2014/15 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.