

MEETING:	AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING DATE:	JUNE 2013
TITLE OF REPORT:	DRAFT ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2012/13
REPORT BY:	HEAD OF GOVERNANCE

1. Classification

Open

2. Key Decision

This is not a key decision

3. Wards Affected

County-wide

4. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the draft Annual Governance Statement for 2012/2013.

5. Recommendation(s)

That:

- (a) the draft Annual Governance Statement 2012/13 attached at Appendix 1 to this report be reviewed; and
- (b) the draft Annual Governance Statement 2012/13 for inclusion in the Statement of Accounts for 2012/13, be approved.

6. Alternative Options

There are no alternative options as the publication of the statement is a statutory requirement.

7. Reasons for Recommendations

This is a statutory requirement.

8. Key Considerations

- 8.1 The Council has a responsibility for conducting at least annually a review of the effectiveness of the governance framework including the system of internal control. This is reported through the Annual Governance Statement which is reviewed and approved by the Audit and Governance Committee prior to its inclusion within the Council's Statement of Accounts. The Annual Governance Statement also provides commentary on how the Council's governance framework including the system of internal control can be improved.

8.2 Actions on significant internal control issues identified in the Annual Governance Statement for 2011/12 were reported to the Audit and Governance Committee as part of the Interim Assurance Reports in 2012/13.

8.3 The Audit and Governance Code authorises the Audit and Governance Committee to review and approve the Council's Annual Governance Statement.

8.4 Whilst the Annual Statement by its nature is only signed off once a year, the process of review is continuous. As a result the reports presented to each meeting of the Audit & Governance Committee are used to inform the Annual Governance Statement.

8.5 The Annual Governance Statement is signed by the Leader of the Council, the Chief Executive, the Chief Officer: Finance & Commercial, and the Head of Governance.

9. Community Impact

As mentioned in paragraph 8 above the Council is responsible for ensuring that appropriate safeguards are in place to ensure that it operates effective governance arrangements and internal controls. The decisions the Council makes have direct impact on the lives of residents of the County and therefore it is essential that the Council have appropriate governance arrangements in place.

10. Equality and Human Rights

The internal and governance arrangements underpins the requirement on the Council to ensure that due regard is paid to all equality and human rights issued when the Council makes decisions.

11. Financial Implications

There are no financial Implications.

12. Legal Implications

The Accounts and Audit Regulations include requirements for all Council's to produce an Annual Governance Statement.

13. Risk Management

There is a risk that the statement does not present a full and accurate description of the Council's governance and control arrangements.

14. Consultees

None

15. Appendices

Appendix 1- Audit and Governance Statement 2012/13.

16. Background Papers

16.1 None identified.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
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