

Cherwell District Council

Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee

28 June 2017

Annual Governance Statement 2016/17

Report of the Chief Finance Officer

This report is public

Purpose of report

To report the Annual Governance Statement. The Annual Governance Statement will be considered at the same time as the Statement of Accounts for 2016/17.

1.0 Recommendations

The meeting is recommended:

- 1.1 To consider and endorse the Annual Governance Statement 2016/17 (Appendix 1).

2.0 Introduction

- 2.1 The Annual Governance Statement is attached at Appendix 1. It is an item for consideration and endorsement prior to formal sign off by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive.

3.0 Report Details

- 3.1 The Annual Governance Statement is part of the CIPFA/SOLACE governance framework. It is a wide ranging document that is governance focussed and must be considered and "owned" corporately. It is separate from the Statement of Accounts but is considered alongside them.
- 3.2 The document describes our governance arrangements and assesses how closely we align with good practice. In overall terms this is a positive statement for the financial year 2016/17 with no significant unaddressed governance issues to report. This document relies on several assurance mechanisms including the internal audit annual review, internal audit reports throughout the year, the work of the Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee, the overall scrutiny process and external audit. The Internal auditors have identified three high risk issues during the year relating to programme management, business continuity and IT security, none of these issues relates to core financial systems and the reports have yet to be finalised.

4.0 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

4.1 To consider and endorse the Annual Governance Statement.

5.0 Consultation

5.1 None.

6.0 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

6.1 None.

7.0 Implications

Financial and Resource Implications

7.1 There are no direct financial implications stemming from this report.

Comments checked by:

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Legal Implications

7.2 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

Comments checked by:

Kevin Lane, Head of Law and Governance

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Risk Management

7.3 There are no risk management issues arising directly from this report.

Comments checked by:

Louise Tustian, Team Leader – Strategic intelligence and Insight, 01295 221786

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Equality and Diversity

7.4 There are no equality or diversity issues arising directly from this report.

Comments checked by:

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8.0 Document Information

Annex No	Title
Appendix 1	Annual Governance Statement 2016/17.
Background Papers	
None	
Report Author	Paul Sutton, Chief Finance Officer
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