

Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee

Annual Governance Statement 2010/11

22 June 2011

Report of Head of Finance

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the Annual Governance Statement 2010/11 (latest draft attached), subject to any amendments the Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee may wish to make.

This report is public

Recommendations

The Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee is recommended to:

- (1) Resolve to consider and approve the Annual Governance Statement "Subject to Audit" 2010/11 (attached as Appendix 1).

Executive Summary

- 1.1 Included at Appendix1 is the Annual Governance Statement for 2010/11. This is a public document that sets out what the Council achieved during the year and how we managed our finances. The purpose of the document is to communicate information about performance and finance (often considered complex and unwieldy by the general public) in an informative, easily understood and accessible way.
- 1.2 The Annual Governance Statement is the part of the CIPFA/SOLACE governance framework. It is a wide ranging document that is governance focussed and must be considered and 'owned' corporately. The statement is separate to the Statement of Accounts.
- 1.3 The Statement will be available on-line, and in hard copy at all of our customer service facilities. In addition we will circulate copies to all our partners and community groups and make it available on request in a variety of formats to ensure it is accessible to as a wide an audience as possible.

Background

- 1.4 The review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is underpinned by an Assurance Framework for internal control. The Framework is managed by the Corporate Governance Group, consisting of senior officers from a range of relevant disciplines, and seeks to provide assurance by adopting a dual approach, assessing information from a service perspective

provided by service managers and a more corporate overview from each of the group Members.

1.5 The members of the Corporate Governance Group during the year were:-

- 2 members from Accounts, Audit and Risk Committee
- 1 member from Standard's Committee
- Chief Financial Officer (151 Officer)
- Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer)
- Head of Human Resources
- Risk Management and Insurance Officer
- Chief Internal Auditor

1.6 During the process of preparing the Annual Governance Statement the Corporate Governance group has met on 3 occasions and 5 drafts have been prepared prior to this final version.

Implications

Financial:	There are no financial issues arising from this report. Its publication is funded from within existing resources. Comments checked by Karen Muir, Corporate System Accountant 01295 221559.
Legal:	The Council must ensure its Annual Governance Statement is prepared in conjunction with the financial statements timetable.
Risk Management:	The appropriate risk register entries were made for the period covered. Comments checked by Karen Muir, Corporate System Accountant, 01295 221559.

Wards Affected

All wards are affected.

Document Information

Appendix No	Title
Appendix 1	Annual Governance Statement 2010/11
Background Papers	
None	
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