

DECISION-MAKER:	GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE		
SUBJECT:	ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2014-15		
DATE OF DECISION:	14 SEPTEMBER 2015		
REPORT OF:	CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY
N/A

BRIEF SUMMARY

In accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations the council is required to develop and publish an Annual Governance Statement (“AGS”). The AGS is intended to provide an accurate representation of the corporate governance arrangements in place during the year and to identify any significant gaps or areas where improvements may be required.

An important part of the process is for the Governance Committee to review and approve the final draft of the AGS prior to the document being presented to the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council for signing.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Governance Committee is asked to:

- (i) Review the final draft of the 2014-15 AGS (Appendix 1)

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Governance Committee has responsibility to provide independent assurance on the adequacy of the risk management framework and the internal control and reporting environment, including (but not limited to) the reliability of the financial reporting process and the annual governance statement.
2. This responsibility extends to receiving, reviewing and approving the draft AGS prior to the document being presented to the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council for signing.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

3. No alternative options have been considered.

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

4. The AGS is produced following detailed review of the council’s governance arrangements. The review requires the systems and processes that comprise the council’s corporate governance arrangements to be brought together and reviewed.
5. The draft AGS has been developed by an internal senior manager group

(Controls Assurance Management Group) and was reviewed by the Council Management Team on 26th May 2015.

6. The Committee will recall that, at the meeting on 15th June, Members were invited to comment on an early draft of the AGS. This is in accordance with CIPFA guidance where it is recommended that “the AGS is first reviewed by members of the Audit [Governance] Committee at an early stage to allow comments and contributions to be made. The AGS must be current at the time it is published, so the Audit [Governance] Committee should review it again in September”.
7. There are no significant changes to the draft AGS however in respect of ‘The Governance Framework’ section, item (s) has been amended to reflect the fact that the People’s Panel has now been established and item (u) reflects an updated position in respect of the actions taken following the Internal Audit review of ‘Partnership Arrangements’. In addition, the ‘Significant Governance Issues’ section has been updated to reflect where planned actions have been completed.
8. As per the process adopted in previous years, the Governance Committee will be provided with a mid-year report in respect of the status of the ‘Planned Actions’.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

9. None

Property/Other

10. None

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

11. The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 require the Council to adopt good governance arrangements in respect of the discharge of its functions. The above arrangements are intended to meet those responsibilities.

Other Legal Implications:

12. None

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

13. None

KEY DECISION? No

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED: Not Applicable

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1. Draft AGS 2014-15

Documents In Members' Rooms

1. N/A

Equality Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out. No

Other Background Documents

Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:

Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
1. N/A	