

Agenda Item 8

Audit and Governance Committee

25 June 2009

TC



Corporate Governance Statement

- Annual Governance Statement (Full Statement)
- Annual Governance Statement (Summary)

Summary

The Council is required to produce an Annual Governance Statement and has used the CIPFA/SOLACE¹ Guidance Note for English Authorities “Delivering Good Governance in Local Government” as its framework for compliance.

This review of governance arrangements has been comprehensive and has taken into account the aspirations highlighted within the Audit Commission’s Corporate Governance Key Lines of Enquiry and measures the Council’s compliance with the KLoEs, it provides a thorough and detailed representation of the Council’s arrangements.

The Annual Governance Statement provides the following assurance:

1. That the Council’s governance arrangements are adequate and operating effectively in practice, and
2. Where reviews of the governance arrangements have revealed gaps, action is planned that will ensure effective governance in the future.

Consultation has taken place with the Monitoring Officer, Corporate Directors, all Heads of Service and other key staff. It was found that in the main, the Council were addressing the major issues that required corrective action.

Recommendations:

Members are asked to agree and adopt the Annual Governance Statement (Full and Summary)

a) **Reasons for Recommendation**

The Annual Governance Statement gives a detailed account of the council’s structures and processes including confirmation that it is complying with the Audit Commission’s Key Lines of Enquiry for Corporate Governance and with its own Local Code of Corporate Governance.

b) **Alternative Options**

None

c) **Risk Considerations**

The Council is required to produce an Annual Governance Statement confirming that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded, properly accounted for and used economically, efficiently and effectively.

¹ Society of Local Authority Chief Executives

Failure to produce this Statement would affect our Use of Resources score and attract criticism from the External Auditors and other review agencies.

d) Policy and Budgetary Considerations

There are no budgetary considerations

e) Date for Review of Decision

N/a

Legal Implications

No legal implications to report.

Financial Implications

None identified

Consultation on Reports to the Executive

None

Background Papers

Annual Governance Statements (Full and Summary)

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Internal Audit and Governance

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