



**DRAFT ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2014/15
REPORT OF DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE (CORPORATE
DIRECTION)**

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL WARDS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the committee with the draft Annual Governance Statement 2014/15 ahead of formal approval in September 2015.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the committee review the draft document ahead of formal approval in September 2015.

3. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

- 3.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011 establish requirements that all local authorities must adhere to in relation to systems of internal control. This has implications for the whole Council and all its services. The regulations require councils to “have a sound system of internal control which facilitates the effective exercise of the council’s functions and which include the arrangements for the management of risk”.
- 3.2 The Council is required to review at least annually the effectiveness of the system of internal controls and make a statement on that alongside the Statement of Accounts.
- 3.3 Whilst the legislation requiring the statement is placed with the Accounts and Audit Regulations **this is not just an accounting or auditing issue. The Annual Governance Statement is a key measure of the overall effectiveness of the Authority.**
- 3.4 As part of the production of the Annual Governance Statement, assurance is required from all services regarding their current systems, procedures and accompanying controls operated. All services were therefore asked to complete a service assurance assessment which has formed part of this statement.
- 3.5 The draft Annual Governance Statement is attached in Appendix 1. There are no significant control weaknesses to bring to the attention of the Committee.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS [KP]

- 4.1 Contained within the body of the report

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS [JB]

- 5.1 The Council is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for. The Council also has a duty under the Local Government Act 1999 to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which it functions, having regard to a combination of economy efficiency and effectiveness.

In discharging this overall responsibility, the Council is also responsible for ensuring

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