

Audit Committee

Meeting to be held on 25th June 2012

Electoral Division affected: None

Annual Governance Statement 2011/12

(Appendix A refers)

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

The Annual Governance Statement (AGS) 2011/12 is presented for approval.

Recommendation

To approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2011/12.

Background and Advice

The AGS requires a review to be conducted of the governance arrangements in the authority. It has previously been agreed that this would be achieved by means of obtaining statements of assurance from executive directors as to the effectiveness of the governance arrangements for which they are responsible, and by reference to the annual report of the Head of internal Audit which is set out at Item 11 on the Agenda.

Those statements have now been obtained. Executive Directors were asked to confirm the adequacy of the arrangements within their directorate against all the principles set out in the council's Code of Corporate Governance, by indicating whether in each case they were good, adequate or weak. In all cases, the response has been categorised as either good or adequate.

The draft statement for 2011/12 is attached at Appendix A. The Statement describes the governance arrangements in the authority and the process by which the review of those arrangements have taken place.

The Statement outlines areas where there is a programme for improvement in the coming year and the Committee is asked to note that a number of changes have already been agreed for several aspects of the governance regime for 2012/13. These include those areas outlined in the annual report of the Head of Internal Audit. It will be seen that there is reference here to information governance, continuity and contingency planning, treasury management, compliance with procurement procedures and revisions to governance structures.

The AGS will be presented to the Chief Executive and Leader for signature.

The Audit Committee are asked formally to approve the AGS.

Consultations

Executive Directors individually.

Risk management

The risk management implications are referred to in the body of the report.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
Delivering Good Governance in Local Government – Guidance Note for English Authorities	2007	Roy Jones, Office of the Chief Executive, 01772 533619
Delivering Good Governance in Local Government - Framework		
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate		
N/A		