

Audit and Governance Committee
Meeting to be held on 24th June 2013

Electoral Division affected: None

Annual Governance Statement 2012/13
(Appendix A refers)

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Executive Summary

To approve the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for 2012/13.

Recommendation

To approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2012/13.

Background and Advice

The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011, require all relevant bodies, of which the County Council is one, to prepare and approve an Annual Governance Statement.

A requirement of the AGS is that reviews must 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 Chief Internal Auditor which is set out at Item 13 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 2012/13 is being finalised following submissions from executive Directors and will be circulated to members of the Committee as a supplementary to this item. The AGS 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 are suggested improvements 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 will include those areas outlined in the annual report of the Chief Internal Auditor. It will also be noted that it is recommended that the annual governance statement should include reference to the need to improve the council's arrangements to ensure good information governance.

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

The Audit and Governance 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 Addendum - 2012

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A