

Audit and Governance Committee

Meeting to be held on Monday, 26 September 2016

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Annual Governance Statement 2015/16 Update

Appendix "A" refers

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

At its meeting held on 30 June 2016 the Committee considered and approved the Council's Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for 2015/16.

This report provides an update to the AGS, attached at Appendix "A", to reflect developments since June.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to approve the updated Annual Governance Statement for inclusion in the Council's Statement of Accounts.

Background and Advice

The County Council is responsible for ensuring 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. The Council also has a duty under the Local Government Act 1999 to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

In discharging this overall responsibility, the Council is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs and facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, including arrangements for the management of risk.

At its meeting held on 30 June 2016 the Committee considered and approved the Council's Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for 2015/16. The AGS at Appendix "A" has been updated to reflect developments within the Council since June and is presented for approval, following which it will be signed by the Chief Executive and

the Leader of the Council and included within the Council's approved Statement of Accounts. The Statement of Accounts and the AGS will then be published on the Council's website.

Risk management

Good governance enables a local authority to pursue its vision effectively as well as underpinning that vision with sound arrangements for control and management of risk. A local authority must ensure that it has a sound system of internal control which includes effective arrangements for the management of risk. Failure to publish an AGS means the Council would be negligent in its responsibilities for ensuring accountability and the proper conduct of public business.

Financial Implications

Good governance leads to good management, good performance and good stewardship of public money, good public engagement and ultimately good outcomes for citizens and service users. However, there are costs associated with embedding and continuing good governance practices, and as the Council's organisational structures develop, the costs associated with governance need to be monitored to ensure they remain proportionate.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
Audit and Governance Committee - Annual Governance Report	30 June 2016	Ian Young Director of Governance, Finance and Public Services. Tel: 01772 533531

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A