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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>2015/16 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE ASSURANCE STATEMENT</b>
<b>Meeting and Date:</b>	<b>Cabinet – 6 June 2016</b> <b>Governance Committee – 30 June 2016</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>David Randall, Director of Governance</b>
<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	<b>Councillor Michael Conolly, Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources and Performance.</b>
<b>Decision Type:</b>	<b>Non-Key</b>
<b>Classification:</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>

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**Purpose of the report:** To agree the Annual Governance Assurance Statement 2015/16

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**Recommendation:**

- (1) Cabinet are recommended to accept the Annual Governance Assurance Statement and to request the Leader and the Head of Paid Service to sign this statement
- (2) Governance Committee are asked to accept the Annual Governance Assurance Statement alongside the 2015/16 Accounts.

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## 1. Summary

- 1.1 Cabinet are asked to accept the Annual Governance Assurance Statement, as recommended by the Corporate Management Team and to request the Leader and the Head of Paid Service to sign this statement.
- 1.2 Governance Committee is asked to accept the Annual Governance Assurance Statement alongside the 2015/16 Accounts.

## 2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015, require that the Council conducts at least annually, a review of the effectiveness of its System of Internal Control, and then publishes a statement on internal control within the Annual Governance Assurance Statement.
- 2.2 The statement is to be signed by the Leader and the Chief Executive, having paid due regard to any matters raised by the Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer.
- 2.3 The proposed 2015/16 Statement is attached. Corporate Management Team agreed to its acceptance in May 2016. The statement has been prepared taking into account the following information:
  - The service review work performed by Internal Audit during the year.
  - Internal Audit's review of Corporate Governance arrangements.

- Assurance Statements produced by individual Directors of Service.
  - The information gathered as a result of risk assessment and management.
- 2.4 The Action plan will be monitored during the year and progress reported to Governance Committee.
3. **Identification of Options**
- 3.1 Agree the Annual Governance Assurance Statement including the key actions identified for signature by the Leader and then inclusion in the 2015/16 Accounts.
- 3.2 Do not agree the Annual Governance Assurance Statement as provided and require further analysis and clarification.
4. **Evaluation of Options**
- 4.1 Option 1 is the preferred option.
5. **Resource Implications**
- None.
6. **Corporate Implications**
- 6.1 Comment from the Section 151 Officer: Finance has been consulted and has no further comment to add (VB).
- 6.2 Comment from the Solicitor to the Council: The Solicitor to the Council has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no further comments to make.
- 6.3 Comment from the Equalities Officer: This report does not specifically highlight any equalities implications however, in discharging their responsibilities members are required to comply with the public sector equality duty as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15>.
7. **Appendices**
- Appendix 1 – Governance Assurance Statement
- Appendix 2 – Action Plan – Backward Looking
- Appendix 3 – Action Plan – Forward Looking
8. **Background Papers**
- Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003
- CIPFA Guidance on Corporate Governance

Contact Officer: David Randall, Director of Governance