
Subject: 2012/13 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE ASSURANCE STATEMENT

Meeting and Date: Governance Committee – 20 June 2013

Report of: Dave Randall, Director of Governance

Decision Type: Non-Key

Classification: Unrestricted

Purpose of the report: To receive the Annual Governance Assurance Statement for 2012/13 which supports the draft annual accounts

Recommendation: To agree the Annual Governance Assurance Statement for 2012/13

1. Summary

- The Annual Governance Assurance Statement has been prepared following input from the Council's Statutory Officers, other directors and heads of profession; and the Director or Head of shared services. The Leader and Chief Executive have now signed this statement.
- Governance Committee is asked to accept the Annual Governance Assurance Statement alongside the 2012/13 Accounts.

2. Introduction and Background

The Accounts and Audit Regulations (England) 2003, as amended by the Accounts and Audit (Amendment England) Regulations 2006, still 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

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.

The proposed 2012/13 Statement is attached. Corporate Management Team agreed to its acceptance in June 2013. 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.
- Assurance statements produced by relevant Heads of Profession
- The information gathered as a result of risk assessment and management.
- Reviews performed by other agencies and inspectorates.

The Action plan as outlined at Appendix 2 will be monitored during the year and progress reported to Governance Committee.

3. Identification of Options

- 3.1 Governance Committee agree the Annual Governance Assurance Statement including the key actions identified for inclusion with the 2012/13 Accounts.
- 3.2 Do not agree the Annual Governance Assurance Statement as provided and either adopt with minor changes or require further analysis and clarification.

4. Evaluation of Options

- 4.1 Option 1 is the preferred option. The governance statement is a collation of individual statements prepared by each DDC director, the Solicitor to the Council, EK Audit Partnership, Director of EK Services, Head of East Kent Housing and KCC Payroll and has been prepared and reviewed by the Monitoring Officer to ensure consistency.

5. Resource Implications

- 5.1 No additional resources are required.

6. Corporate Implications

- 6.1 Comment from the Section 151 Officer: Finance have been consulted and have no further comment to add.
- 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 – 2012/13 Governance Assurance Statement

Appendix 2 – 2012/13 Forward looking action plan

8. Background Papers

Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003

CIPFA Guidance on Corporate Governance

Individual Governance Statements

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