
Subject: 2013/14 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE ASSURANCE STATEMENT

Meeting and Date: Cabinet – 2 June 2014
Governance Committee – 26 June 2014

Report of: Dave Randall, Director of Governance

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Paul Watkins, Leader of the Council.

Decision Type: Non-key

Classification: Unrestricted

Purpose of the report: Cabinet:- To agree the Annual Governance Assurance Statement 2013/14
Governance Committee:- To note the report and it's inclusion alongside the 2013/14 accounts.

Recommendation: To agree the report

1. Summary

- 1.1 Cabinet are asked to accept the Annual Governance Assurance Statement, as recommended by the Corporate Management Team, and authorise the Leader to sign this statement.
- 1.2 Governance Committee is asked to accept the Annual Governance Assurance Statement alongside the 2013/14 Accounts.

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations (England) 2003, as amended by the Accounts and Audit (Amendment England) Regulations 2006, 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 2013/14 Statement is attached. Corporate Management Team agreed to its acceptance in May 2014. 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.
- 2.4 The information gathered as a result of risk assessment and management.

2.5 The Action plan will be monitored during the year and progress reported to Governance Committee.

3. Identification of Options

3.1 Agree the report

3.2 Do not agree the report

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 comments to add (SJL)

6.2 Comment from the Solicitor to the Council: The Solicitor to the Council has been consulted in the preparation of the 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: Mary Venables, Corporate Services Officer