

Regulation, Audit & Accounts Committee

23 July 2018

Part I

Annual Governance Statement 2017/18

Report by Director of Finance, Performance and Procurement and Director of Law and Assurance

Executive Summary

This report presents the draft Annual Governance Statement providing a review of the effectiveness of the County Council's internal control systems and gives assurances about how effectively they operate.

Recommendation

- (1) The Committee is asked to approve the draft Annual Governance Statement for signature by the Leader of the County Council and the Chief Executive, subject to any amendments that this Committee may wish to make.
- (2) The Committee is asked to agree the draft action plan arising from the 2017/18 Statement .

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Appendix A to this report contains the draft Annual Governance Statement which, pursuant to the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015, must be approved by the Regulation, Audit & Accounts Committee in order for it to accompany the signed and dated Statement of Accounts. The Annual Governance Statement must subsequently be signed by the Leader of the County Council and the Chief Executive.

2. Background

- 2.1 The County Council is required pursuant to the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 to produce a broad based Annual Governance Statement. Once approved by this committee the Annual Governance Statement must be signed on behalf of the County Council by the Leader of the County Council and the Chief Executive.
- 2.2 The Annual Governance Statement is an important and integral part of the County Council's Corporate Governance regime, providing a review of the effectiveness of the County Council's internal control systems and gives assurances about how effectively they operate.
- 2.3 Departmental Assurance Statements have been issued seeking assurances about departmental governance arrangements. The comments received have been taken into account in preparing the draft Annual Governance Statement (Appendix A). Comments from the Committee made in March 2018 have also been taken into account in finalising the draft.

2.4 The content of the draft Annual Governance Statement follows the CIPFA Guidance and has been prepared in relation to the County Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

2.5 The previous year's action plan is attached as Appendix B, which provides an update on action taken to address significant governance issues. A draft new action plan is attached as Appendix C, which incorporates newly identified significant governance issues, for approval.

3. Resource Implications and Value for Money

3.1 None arising directly from this report

4. Equality Duty.

4.1 An Equality Impact Report is not required for this decision as report dealing with internal or procedural matters only.

5. Risk Management Implications

5.1 There are risks associated with services not addressing key recommendations arising from the Annual Governance Statement. A report detailing progress against identified actions will be presented to the December Committee for monitoring to ensure that key risks are addressed on a timely basis.

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Appendices

Appendix A – draft Annual Governance Statement 2017-18

Appendix B - Status of 2016-17 Annual Governance Statement - Action Plan

Appendix C – draft 2017-18 Action Plan

Background Papers

None