

Meeting: Audit Committee **Date:** 25 May 2016

Wards Affected: All

Report Title: Annual Governance Statement 2015/2016

Is the decision a key decision? No

When does the decision need to be implemented? Immediately

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1. Proposal and Introduction

- 1.1 The preparation of the Annual Governance Statement provides the opportunity for the organisation to review its processes, controls and objectives and to provide assurance to Members, Senior Officers and stakeholders as to the reliability of its statement of accounts and the probity of its operations. Regulations require every local authority, as good practice, to include in their annual Statement of Accounts an Annual Governance Statement signed by the Elected Mayor and the Chief Executive.
- 1.2 The Statement is wide ranging and sets out publicly the extent to which the Council complies with its own code of corporate governance, including how it monitored and evaluated the effectiveness of its governance arrangements in the year and on any planned changes in the coming year. The Statement also fulfils the statutory requirement in England for a local authority to conduct a review at least once in each financial year of the effectiveness of its system of internal control and to include a statement reporting on the review with its Statement of Accounts.

2. Reason for Proposal

- 2.1 To meet the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015.

3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

- 3.1 That the draft Annual Governance Statement for 2015/2016 be agreed and forwarded to the External Auditors for comment.

3.2 That the final Annual Governance Statement be presented to the Audit Committee when it considers the Statement of Accounts.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Draft Annual Governance Statement 2015/2016

Background Documents

None