

Annual Governance Statement Arrangements 2018 19

REPORT TO AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE



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PORTFOLIO	Resources and Performance Management
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PURPOSE

1. To inform the Audit and Standards Committee of the arrangements to provide assurance for an Annual Governance Statement for the financial year 2018/19.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That the Audit and Standards Committee approves the proposed process.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3. The Audit and Standards Committee are required to approve the Annual Governance Statement.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

4. There is a requirement under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 that as part of the annual accounts process the Council is required to review both its internal control and wider governance arrangements. It must also publish an Annual Governance Statement (AGS) to accompany the Councils Statement of Accounts.
5. Members were presented with 2017/18 AGS reports at Audit and Standards Committee in July 2017.
6. Planning for the production of the 2018/19 AGS has now commenced. This will be in line with CIPFA (Chartered Institute for Public Finance and Accountancy) and SOLACE (Society of Local Authority Chief Executives) guidelines. The 2018/19 AGS will incorporate the core principles, introduced in the 2016/17 AGS.
7. The Role of Head of Internal Audit is to be updated by CIPFA and is expected to be published in 2018/19.
8. The assurance gathering process remains the same and is shown in Appendix 1. Heads of Service and specific Members of the Council will be asked to complete a statement of assurance supported by a governance questionnaire (reflecting the seven core principles) which will be passed onto Management Team. The Chief Executive and Leader will

consider Management Team and Member statements before producing an Annual Governance Statement for the authority.

9. Similarly, Liberata will be requested to provide an assurance statement for those services that have been transferred out.

10. The 2018/19 AGS will then be reported alongside the Statement of Accounts.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

11. None

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

12. None

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

13. None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

14. None

FURTHER INFORMATION

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