

Arrangements For 2016/17 Annual Governance Statement

REPORT TO AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE



DATE	8th March 2017
PORTFOLIO	Resources and Performance Management
REPORT AUTHOR	Nadeem Ukadia
TEL NO	Ext 3150
EMAIL	nukadia@burnley.gov.uk

PURPOSE

1. To inform the Audit and Standards Committee of the arrangements to provide assurance for an Annual Governance Statement for the financial year 2016/17.

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. As part of the annual accounts process the Council is required to review both its internal control and wider governance arrangements and publish an Annual Governance Statement (AGS) to accompany the Councils Statement of Accounts for 2016/17. This is a requirement under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.
5. Members were presented with AGS reports in the June and September Audit and Standards Committee. Planning for the production of the 2016/17 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 and take the same format as for 2015/16 AGS.
6. In 2016 CIPFA and SOLACE updated the core principles of governance and identified seven key attributes. A summary of these and a comparison to the 2007 principles is included in Appendix A.
7. The updated governance elements largely remain the same in substance. An additional principle titled 'intervention' has been separately identified. This addresses the processes undertaken to determining the optimal course of action to achieve intended outcome. The examples given for this are risk management, financial strategy, budget monitoring, performance monitoring and surveys. These are all elements that form part of Council's existing routine consideration and reporting.

8. The assurance gathering process remains the same and is shown in Appendix B. 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 have also been requested to provide an assurance statement after considering CIPFA governance principles and internal controls for those services that have been transferred out.
10. The 2016/17 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

PLEASE CONTACT:

Nadeem Ukadia (Senior Auditor) Ext 3150

ALSO:

Ian Evenett (Internal Audit Manager) Ext 7175