

Arrangements For 2017/18 Annual Governance Statement

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 2017/18.

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 2017/18. This is a requirement under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.
5. Members were presented with AGS reports in the July Audit and Standards Committee. Planning for the production of the 2017/18 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 format of the 2017/18 AGS has been reviewed to incorporate the core principles, introduced in the 2016/17 AGS, in to the body of the statement; a draft version is attached at Appendix B.
6. The assurance gathering process remains the same and is shown in Appendix A. 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.
7. 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.

8. The 2017/18 AGS will then be reported alongside the Statement of Accounts.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

9. None

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

10. None

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

11. None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

12. None

FURTHER INFORMATION

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