

Agenda Item: 10

Meeting: Audit Committee

Date: 18 June 2010

Subject: 2009/10 Annual Governance Statement

Report of: Director of Customer and Shared Services

Summary: This report sets out the 2009/10 Annual Governance Statement and asks the Committee to recommend it for adoption.

Contact Officer: Nick Murley, Assistant Director Audit & Risk

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: All

Function of: Audit Committee

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

The Annual Governance Statement sets out the governance framework for the Council, the review of the effectiveness of that framework during the year and the significant issues arising from the review. As such it is supporting all of the priorities of the Council.

Financial:

None directly from this report.

Legal:

None directly from this report.

Risk Management:

No risk management implications come directly from this report but the framework for the Council's risk management arrangements are captured in the statement.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

None directly from this report.

Equalities/Human Rights:

None directly from this report.

Community Safety:

None directly from this report

Sustainability:

None directly from this report

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Audit Committee:

- 1. Note how the 2009/10 Annual Governance Statement (AGS) has been prepared and suggest any improvements to that process for 2010/11.**
- 2. Comment on the AGS, attached at appendix A, and recommend it to the Chief Executive and Leader for adoption**

Background

1. All councils are required to publish an Annual Governance Statement (AGS) as part of their Annual Statement of Accounts, in accordance with the 2006 Accounts and Audit Regulations.
2. The statement needs to capture the governance framework at the Council in place during the financial year. It also has to describe how the review of this framework has been undertaken and what significant governance issues have come to light as a result of this review. It needs to be approved by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive before being included in the Annual Statement of Accounts.
3. This report sets out the process that Central Bedfordshire has followed for compiling the statement for 2009/10 and asks the committee to recommend the statement to the Chief Executive and Leader for adoption.

Preparation of the 2009/10 Annual Governance Statement.

4. A draft AGS was put together by asking Assistant Directors to describe the specific components making up the Council's governance framework and the reviews of those components undertaken during the financial year.
5. In addition a template was completed setting out how the Council complies with the CIPFA/SOLICE framework 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government'.
6. The Assistant Director Financial Services (Interim S151 Officer), Directors and the Chief Executive were then consulted on these documents and made suggestions for any amendments or additions.
7. The outcome of all of the above was then presented to the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and People for comment.

9. The Corporate Management Team then approved the final draft. As part of that process the Assistant Director Financial Services (S151 Officer) and Directors signed a statement signifying they have managed their internal control environment during the year, have identified all of their known risks and have put arrangements in place to mitigate these risks.
10. The Audit Committee are asked to note the process as set out above and suggest any improvements for the 2010/11 financial year.
11. The AGS is attached at appendix A and the Committee are also asked to make comments and recommend it to the Chief Executive and Leader for adoption.

Conclusion and Next Steps

12. The Chief Executive and the Leader have the responsibility to sign the final statement before it is included in the 2009/10 Annual Statement of Accounts, which will be approved by the Audit Committee on the 28 June 2010.

Appendices:

Appendix A - 2009/10 Annual Governance Statement

Background Papers:

None

Location of papers: Priory House, Chicksands, Bedfordshire