
Meeting: Audit Committee
Date: 30 June 2014
Subject: Annual Governance Statement 2013/14
Report of: Chief Legal and Democratic Services Officer and Monitoring Officer
Summary: The report seeks the Committee's approval to the draft Annual Governance Statement.

Contact Officer: Melanie Clay, Chief Legal and Democratic Services Officer and Monitoring Officer

Public/Exempt: Public

Wards Affected: All

Function of: Audit Committee/Leader and Chief Executive

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

A sound system of corporate governance provides the framework and assurance within which the Council can deliver its priorities with confidence. Corporate governance is the means by which the Council ensures that it is doing the right things, in the right way, for the right people, in a timely, inclusive, open, honest and accountable manner. The Annual Governance Statement shows how the Council has complied with the Code in the relevant financial year, how the Council has monitored the effectiveness of its governance arrangements during the year and identified any planned changes.

Financial:

1. The Annual Governance Statement is an accompanying document to the Council's Statement of Accounts for 2013/14, but this report has no financial implications.

Legal:

2. The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011 (as amended) require the Council to conduct an annual review of its systems of internal control. The preparation of an Annual Governance Statement forms part of that process.

Risk Management:

3. The Annual Governance Statement identifies any significant governance issues and, where appropriate, these have been identified in the Council's Corporate Risk Register, together with mitigating action to reduce the level of the risk.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

4. There are none.

Equalities/Human Rights:

5. None arise directly from this report.

Community Safety:

6. There are none.

Sustainability:

7. There are none.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Audit Committee approves the draft Annual Governance Statement attached as Appendix A.

Background

8. The Audit Committee's terms of reference include responsibility for overseeing the production of the Council's Annual Governance Statement. Ultimately, the Annual Governance Statement is signed by the Leader and Chief Executive.

Annual Governance Statement for 2013/14

9. The Annual Governance Statement (AGS) adopts the same format as in the previous 2 years.
10. The Annual Governance Statement is intended to demonstrate how the Council has achieved the principles contained in the Code of Corporate Governance in the current financial year.
11. The draft Annual Governance Statement has been considered by CMT and identifies significant governance issues that the Council has had to manage during 2013/14. These are referred to in paragraph 5 of the Statement.
12. The Audit Committee is asked to consider whether the draft AGS accurately reflects the governance arrangements and the management of risk.

Conclusion and Next Steps

13. If approved by the Audit Committee the Statement will be submitted to the Leader and Chief Executive for formal sign off.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Draft Annual Governance Statement 2013/14

Background Papers: (open to public inspection)

Code of Corporate Governance

Location of papers:

Priory House, Chicksands