

REPORT OF:	HEAD OF FINANCE & ASSETS
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TO:	EXECUTIVE
DATE:	20 JUNE 2019
EXECUTIVE MEMBER:	COUNCILLOR T. SCHOFIELD

KEY DECISION REQUIRED:	NO
WARD (S) AFFECTED:	ALL

SUBJECT:	ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT
RECOMMENDATION: (i) That the Annual Governance Statement set out in Annex 1 be endorsed.	
REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS: To seek Executive endorsement of the Council's Annual Governance Statement before it is included within the annual Statement of Accounts.	
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: The Council is required to publish an annual statement on its corporate governance arrangements. This should accompany the Council's annual Statement of Accounts. Statutory regulations recommend that the body charged with overall responsibility for governance within the Council should review and endorse the statement prior to its formal signature by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive.	

Executive has authority to approve the recommendation.

STATUTORY POWERS

1. The *Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015* require the Council to prepare and publish annually a statement on the adequacy of its internal control and governance framework. This is known as the Annual Governance Statement (AGS).

BACKGROUND

2. The Accounts and Audit Regulations require that the AGS accompany the Council's annual Statement of Accounts.
3. The *Code of Practice on Local Government Accounting* recommends that the Statement should be endorsed by a body within the Council that is responsible for overall corporate governance. Under the Council's Constitution, that responsibility sits with the Executive.

4. The Code also recommends that the AGS should then be formally signed by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive.

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

5. The Statement is compiled from the following sources of evidence:
 - Annual Internal Auditor Report.
 - External Audit and Inspection Reports.
 - Issues identified from the Council's Risk Registers.
 - Annual assurance statements signed by the Management Team that confirm that the Council has achieved 'best value' and has complied with all relevant legislation, regulations and codes of practice.
6. Based on the above sources of evidence a statement for the year ended 31 March 2019 has been compiled and is attached as Annex 1.

OPTIONS

7. The Executive can accept, reject or amend the contents of the statement in Annex 1.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8. There are no legal implications.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9. There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

10. There are no equalities implications.

COMMUNICATIONS IMPLICATIONS

11. There are no communications implications.

CONSULTATION

12. The Executive Member for Finance was consulted during the preparation of this report.

POLICY FRAMEWORK

13. There are no policy issues to raise as part of this report.

Background Papers: None