

COUNCIL - 28TH JULY 2011

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE

Minute/
Page No.

EXECUTIVE: 16TH JUNE 2011

15/ ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

A report was received on the statement on the control and governance framework within the Council, which was required to comply with the Accounts and Audit Regulations. The report set out relevant statutory powers, background information, a summary of the governance statement and process, options open to the Executive, legal, financial and equalities implications, consultation undertaken and policy framework considerations.

The statement highlighted some areas where improvements were required. The Executive were advised that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had noted particular concerns regarding health and safety and contract management.

The Deputy Leader provided an update on the actions to respond to the issues, which included a new procurement team structure within Legal Services and contract management tool to support managers. Work had also been undertaken within health and safety to ensure actions were recorded and monitored and the Executive were informed that the Health and Safety Forum would ensure this continued.

The governance statement, attached as annex 1 to the report, would form part of the Council's annual financial accounts for the 2010/11 year. Approval was sought to change the approval process for future accounts to enable auditing to be completed before they are approved.

The Executive noted that invoicing and cash management issues had been resolved as cash payments were no longer accepted at the depot.

RECOMMENDED that:

- (i) Approval of the Statement of Accounts be delegated to the Executive; and**
- (ii) Article 4 and the Functions and Responsibilities (Local Choice) within the Constitution be amended to reflect the delegation in (i) above, in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011.**

RESOLVED that the Annual Governance Statement, as set out in annex 1 to the report, be endorsed.

Reasons for Recommendations / Decision: To endorse the Council's Annual Governance Statement before it is included within the Council's annual Statement of Accounts, and to agree the process for approval of the Statement of Accounts.

Alternative Options

In relation to the approval of the Annual Governance Statement, the Executive had the following alternative options, which were considered and rejected:

- reject the contents of the statement; or
- amend the contents of the statement.

In relation to the delegation to approve the accounts, the Executive had the following alternative options, which were considered and rejected:

- breach the Regulations; or
- convene a Special Council meeting.

EXECUTIVE: 21ST JULY 2011

Minute with Recommendation to follow.

The Recommendation relates to:

- Towards a Sustainable Council – Service and Financial Planning Framework

The report on this matter before the Executive is set out under Agenda item 5, page 33 of the agenda for its meeting on 21st July 2011. The report contains eight Recommendations but only one, as set out below, may be subject to Recommendation to Council:

“(vi) revised capital programme, incorporating the agreed option for Banstead Leisure Centre (subject to separate report on this agenda) attached at Annex 4, be adopted; and”.

Annex 4 referred to above, is set out on page 75 of the Executive's agenda.