

Name of meeting: Corporate Governance & Audit Committee
Date: 17 November 2017

Title of report: Annual Governance Statement 2016/17

Purpose of report: To approve the draft Statement

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	Not applicable
Key Decision - Is it in the Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)?	Not applicable
The Decision - Is it eligible for "call in" by Scrutiny?	Not applicable
Date signed off by Director & name	Not applicable
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance, IT & Transactional Services	Yes
Is it also signed off by the Service Director - Legal Governance and Monitoring?	Yes
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr David Sheard

Electoral wards affected: All
Ward councillors consulted: Not applicable

Public

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Committee is asked to approve the draft 2016/17 Annual Governance Statement signed off by the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council. The Statement covers 2016/17 and up to the date at which the Annual Statement of Accounts is approved at the November meeting of the Committee.
- 1.2 The Statement is a statutory requirement and accompanies the Statement of Accounts in order to provide readers with assurance about the governance and internal control environment in which they have been compiled and to which they relate.
- 1.3 The draft Statement was compiled following the annual review of the effectiveness of the overall internal control and governance arrangements and draws on a number of forms of assurance which were presented to various parts of the Council during 2016/17, including many to this Committee (e.g. annual activity reports), being principally the Annual Report of Internal Audit, reports by the external auditor, Monitoring Officer and from the performance management framework. Members noted the draft Statement at the meeting of 21 April, since when the normal approval process has been delayed by the

objections raised to the 2016/17 Annual Accounts to which the Statement refers. The draft Statement is essentially unchanged since then.

- 1.4 The draft Statement highlights a number of what are termed 'Significant Governance Issues', three of which are ongoing ones brought forward from the 2015/16 Statement, as well as new issues identified during last year. The actions and controls the Council is taking to address the issues raised have been formulated into an Action Plan that the Committee will be able to monitor quarterly during the rest of the year. A number of the issues therein are of an ongoing nature, whereas some have a discreet remediation timescale during 2017/18.

2. Information required to take a decision

- 2.1 The detail is contained within the draft Statement.

3. Implications for the Council

- 3.1 Early Intervention and Prevention (EIP) -None directly
- 3.2 Economic Resilience (ER) -None directly
- 3.3 Improving Outcomes for Children -None directly, although the draft Statement includes reference to the Ofsted Inspection Improvement Plan.
- 3.4 Reducing demand of services -None directly
- 3.5 Although each of the sub categorisations above suggest no direct implications, the review of the effectiveness of the internal control and governance arrangements covers all aspects of the Council's operations, including elements of the above, either specifically, indirectly or on a commissioned basis.

4. Consultees and their opinions

- 4.1 The Chief Executive, Strategic Directors, Service Director Legal, Governance & Monitoring, Service Director Finance, IT & Transactional Services, Head of Audit & Risk have commented on the draft Statement.

5. Next steps

- 5.1 A finalised version of the Statement will be published as an addendum to the Annual Accounts. Progress on implementing the Action Plan will be reported quarterly as part of the Internal Audit reporting cycle.

6. Officer recommendations and reasons

- 6.1 Members are asked to approve the draft Statement.

7. Cabinet portfolio holder recommendation

- 7.1 Not applicable.

8. Contact officer

Simon Straker, Audit Manager - 73726

9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

The draft 2016/17 Statement is attached.
Annual Governance Statement 2015/16.

10. Director responsible

Chief Executive.