

**Name of meeting: Corporate Governance & Audit Committee**  
**Date: 20 April 2018**

**Title of report: Annual Governance Statement 2017/18**

**Purpose of report; To note 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 <a href="#">Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)?</a>	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	n/a
Is it also signed off by the Service Director - Legal Governance and Commissioning?	Yes
Cabinet member portfolio	Cllr David Sheard

**Electoral wards affected: All**

**Ward councillors consulted: Not applicable**

**Public**

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## 1. Summary

- 1.1 The Committee is asked to note the draft 2017/18 Annual Governance Statement prior to it being signed off by the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council. The Statement covers the period up to the point at which the Annual Statement of Accounts is approved, at the July meeting of the Committee for 2018/19, so there may be revisions made in the intervening period for consideration ahead of Accounts approval.
- 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 has been 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 have been presented to various parts of the Council during the year, 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.
- 1.4 The draft Statement highlights a number of what are termed 'Significant Governance Issues', nine of which are ongoing ones brought forward

from the 2016/17 Statement, as well as three new issues identified during last year. Three important issues from 2016/17 have been addressed satisfactorily. The actions and controls the Council is taking to address the issues raised are being formulated into an Action Plan that the Committee will be able to monitor during the coming year.

## **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 & Commissioning, Acting Service Director Finance, Head of (Audit &) Risk have commented on the draft Statement.

## **5. Next steps**

5.1 A finalised version of the Statement will be considered by the Committee ahead of the approval of the Annual Accounts at the September meeting. An Action Plan will be drawn up to enable the Committee to monitor progress in responding to the significant issues identified.

## **6. Officer recommendations and reasons**

6.1 Members are asked to note 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 2017/18 Statement is attached.  
Annual Governance Statement 2016/17.

**10. Director responsible**  
Chief Executive.