

Audit and Standards Committee

8 September 2016

Annual Governance Statement 2015/2016

Recommendation

That the Committee endorses the Annual Governance Statement for 2015/16 prior to submission to Cabinet and Council.

1.0 Key Issues

- 1.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require the authority to conduct a review, at least once in a year, of the effectiveness of its system of internal control and to prepare an Annual Governance Statement (AGS).
- 1.2 The results of the review and resulting AGS was considered at the June meeting of the Committee in order that a proposed AGS could be made available to the external auditors. The draft statement was endorsed by the committee, subject to clarification of the wording around the frequency of community forum meetings, the arrangements for recording cases of whistleblowing and to include the Armed Services Covenant. Feedback from external auditors has been positive.
- 1.3 The Committee is asked to confirm that the proposed AGS (**Appendix 1**) continues to be appropriate taking into account the results of the external audit and the content of the Authority's accounts which are also on the agenda for this meeting. The changes requested by this Committee at its meeting in June are highlighted using tracked changes.
- 1.4 Following consideration by the Committee the AGS will be submitted to Cabinet on 8 September (outcomes arising from this meeting will be reported verbally) and to Council on 22 September.

Background papers

None

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The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local Member(s): Not applicable

Other members: None