

Final Annual Governance Statement

Audit Committee

Date: 23rd July 2018

Author: Head of Internal Audit
Wards: None
Locality Affected: None
Parishes Affected: None

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 It is a requirement of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 that the Council prepares an Annual Governance Statement.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide Audit Committee with the final version of the Annual Governance Statement in respect of 2017/18.
- 1.3 The Council's Audit Committee has a strategic role to ensure that the Council's assurance framework is operating effectively. To this end it should seek assurance that key areas that contribute to this framework are operating properly.
- 1.4 The Annual Governance Statement sets out the Council's governance arrangements and is therefore a key source of assurance for the Audit Committee.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 It is recommended that the report be noted.

3. Detail

- 3.1 The Annual Governance Statement (AGS) is the formal statement that recognises records and publishes an authority's governance arrangements.
- 3.2 It is designed not only to give an opportunity for authorities to consider the robustness of their governance arrangements, but also provide an accurate representation of arrangements in place during the year and to identify areas where improvement is required.
- 3.3 The Council has approved and adopted a local code of corporate governance, <http://ww5.swindon.gov.uk/moderngov/ecSDDisplay.aspx?NAME=SD6032&ID=6032&RPID=5721575>, which is consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework for Delivering Good Governance in Local Government.
- 3.4 The Annual Governance Statement (see Appendix 1) explains how the Council has complied with the local code and also meets the requirements of the

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Nick Hobbs,
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Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 in relation to the publication of an annual governance statement.

- 3.5 A draft Annual Governance Statement was presented to the June Audit Committee meeting along with a paper on the review of the effectiveness of the Council's governance arrangements. Comments received from members of the Audit Committee and the Council's External Auditor have been taken in to account in the final version attached.
- 3.6 The final version of the report will be signed off by the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 Not Applicable

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2 Internal Audit is a statutory requirement of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. The Internal Audit service also provides assurance to the Director of Finance regarding the requirements of Section 151 of the Local Government Act 1972.

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.3 None

Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.4 None

Risk Management

- 5.5 Potential risk areas identified in the report are taken from the Council's Corporate Risk register.

6. Consultees

- 6.1 The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.
- 6.2 Corporate Management Team

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7. Background Papers

7.1 None

8. Appendices / Background papers

Appendix 1 – The Annual Governance Statement 2017/18

9. Key Decision/Decision in Forward Plan

Not Applicable