



AUDIT COMMITTEE

30TH JUNE 2015

AGENDA ITEM (9)

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Accountable Member	Audit Committee
Accountable Officer	Robert Milford Head of Audit Cotswolds 01285 623350 robert.milford@cotswold.gov.uk

Purpose of Report	To present the Audit Committee with the draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for 2014/15 for approval.
Recommendation	That the Committee discusses the draft Annual Governance Statement and, subject to any alterations, approves the AGS for inclusion in the pre-audit Statement of Accounts.
Reason(s) for Recommendation	The AGS details how the Council has complied with the code and also meets the requirements of regulation 4(4) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011 in relation to the publication of an Annual Governance Statement.

Ward(s) Affected	N/A
Key Decision	No
Recommendation to Council	No

Financial Implications	N/A
Legal and Human Rights Implications	N/A
Environmental and Sustainability Implications	N/A
Human Resource Implications	N/A
Key Risks	The AGS itself discusses risks in terms of the governance framework.
Equalities Impact Assessment	Not Required

Related Decisions	N/A
Background Documents	CIPFA SOLACE Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework CIPFA Finance Advisory Network, The Annual Governance Statement, Meeting the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011
Appendices	Appendix A - Draft Annual Governance Statement

Performance Management Follow Up	The control risks identified will be subject to follow-up in line with the Annual Audit Plan.
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Options for Joint Working	N/A
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Background

1. General

1.1 Cotswold District Council (CDC) is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively. CDC also has a duty under the Local Government Act 1999 to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

1.2 In discharging this overall responsibility, CDC is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs, facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, and which includes arrangements for the management of risk. CDC has approved and adopted a Code of Corporate Governance, which is consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework Delivering Good Governance in Local Government.

1.3 The Annual Governance Statement (AGS) details how the Council has complied with the Code and also meets the requirements of regulation 4(4) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011 in relation to the publication of an Annual Governance Statement.

2. The Annual Governance Statement

2.1 The AGS is a corporate issue and has been developed by the Corporate Governance Group and subject to further review by the Corporate Team.

2.2 The AGS details the Governance Framework and the Review of Effectiveness that has been used to measure the Council's existing governance arrangements - this included the direct reference to the Code of Corporate Governance that demonstrates the Council is committed to the principles of good corporate governance.

2.3 The AGS also contains the recognition of governance issues and how the Council demonstrates how CDC intends to enhance its governance arrangements.

2.4 The draft AGS is attached at **Appendix A**.

(END)