



AUDIT COMMITTEE

28TH JUNE 2016

AGENDA ITEM (9)

DRAFT ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2015/2016

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| Accountable Member | Audit Committee |
| Accountable Officer | Robert Milford Head of Audit Cotswolds 01285 623350 robert.milford@cotswold.gov.uk |
| Report Author | Lucy Cater Head of Internal Audit (Operational) 01285 623340 lucy.cater@cotswold.gov.uk |

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| Purpose of Report | To present the Audit Committee with the draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS) 2015/2016 for approval. |
| Recommendation(s) | That the Committee discusses the draft Annual Governance Statement 2015/16 and, subject to any alterations, approves it for inclusion in the pre-audit Statement of Accounts. |
| Reason(s) for Recommendation(s) | 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. |

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

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| 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 discusses risks in terms of the governance framework |

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| Equalities Analysis | 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 2015/2016 |
| Performance Management Follow Up | The control risks identified will be subject to follow-up in line with the Annual Audit Plan |

Background Information

1. General

1.1 The Council 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. The Council 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, the Council is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs, facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, and which includes arrangement for the management of risk. The Council 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 AGS.

2. The Annual Governance Statement

2.1 The AGS is a corporate issue and has been developed, and subsequently reviewed, by 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 it intends to enhance its governance arrangements.

2.4 A copy of the draft AGS is attached at **Appendix 'A'**.

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