



AUDIT COMMITTEE

4TH JULY 2017

AGENDA ITEM (10)

DRAFT ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2016/17

Accountable Member	Audit Committee
Accountable Officer	Lucy Cater Acting Head of Audit Cotswolds (2016/17) Assistant Director, South West Audit Partnership (2017/18) 01285 623340 lucy.cater@cotswold.gov.uk lucy.cater@southwestaudit.co.uk

Purpose of Report	To present the Audit Committee with the draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS) 2016/17 for approval.
Recommendation(s)	That the Committee discusses the draft Annual Governance Statement 2016/17 and, subject to any amendment, 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 and, from 1 st April 2015 the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 in relation to the publication of a Statement on Annual Governance.

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 discusses risks in terms of the governance framework

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 and, from 1 st April 2015 the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 in relation to the publication of a Statement on Annual Governance.
Appendices	Appendix 'A' - Draft Annual Governance Statement 2016/17
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 Local Code of Corporate Governance, which is consistent with the refreshed principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE Guidance for Statements produced for year ended 31st March 2017. The AGS has been updated to reflect the new best practice framework.

1.3 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 AGS and, from 1st April 2015, the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 in relation to the publication of a Statement on Annual Governance.

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 includes direct reference to the Local Code of Corporate Governance that demonstrates that 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'**.

(END)