

REPORT TO AUDIT COMMITTEE



DATE	25 th September 2013
PORTFOLIO	Resources and Performance Management
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Revised Annual Governance Statement 2012-13

PURPOSE

1. To present a revised Annual Governance Statement to the Audit Committee for approval.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That the Committee approve the revised Annual Governance Statement 2012/13 (Appendix A).

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3. Section 4 of The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011 state that the Annual Governance Statement must be approved by a committee. This responsibility is undertaken by the Audit Committee under their terms of reference as those charged with governance.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

4. The Annual Governance Statement was presented to the Audit Committee in June. Subsequently the External Auditor has provided some comments on its content and management has agreed to revise the statement.
5. The revision concerns providing details of how the Council has gathered its assurance for the statement, and is included at point 4.3. We provide these details in the report to the Audit Committee and have agreed the approach with the Audit Committee. This has also provided an opportunity to consider the inclusion of any significant issues that have been reported since the statement was signed. Management consider that there are no significant issues that require inclusion.
6. Grant Thornton, our external auditor has provided a national report on local government governance and this includes advice on Annual Governance Statements. It has identified that for 2011/12 54% of Councils have signed or re-signed at the date of the audit opinion and that this is an improvement as it highlights the importance of keeping the statement up

to date.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

7. None

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

8. None

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

9.. Executive Member for Resources and Performance Management
Chair of Audit Committee
Director of Resources
Head of Finance and Property Management
Head of People, Law and Regulation

BACKGROUND PAPERS

10. Local Governance Review 2013 - Grant Thornton
http://www.grant-thornton.co.uk/Global/Publication_pdf/Local-Government-Governance-Review-2013.pdf

FURTHER INFORMATION

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Appendix A – Annual Governance Statement 2012 13