

# HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

## Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker</b>	Audit Committee
<b>Date of Decision</b>	22 June 2017
<b>Decision Title</b>	Annual Governance Statement
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Transformation and Governance and Director of Corporate Resources – Corporate Services

**Contact name** Barbara Beardwell, (Head of Governance)

**Tel** 01962-855157      **Email** Barbara.beardwell@hants.gov.uk

**Contact name** Neil Pitman, (Chief Internal Auditor)

**Tel** 01962- 845139      **Email** Neil.Pitman@hants.gov.uk

### 1. Executive Summary

1.1 Annex 1 to this report contains the draft Annual Governance Statement which, pursuant to the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015, must be approved by the Audit Committee in order for it to accompany the signed and dated Statement of Accounts. The Annual Governance Statement must subsequently be signed by the Leader of the County Council and the Chief Executive.

### 2. Contextual Information

2.1 The County Council is required pursuant to the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 to produce a broad based Annual Governance Statement.

2.2 Once approved by this Committee the Annual Governance Statement must be signed on behalf of the County Council by the Leader of the County Council and the Chief Executive.

2.3 The Annual Governance Statement is an important and integral part of the County Council's Corporate Governance regime.

2.4 The Annual Governance Statement provides a review of the effectiveness of the County Council's internal control systems and gives assurances about how effectively they operate.

2.5 Guidance supplied by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountancy (CIPFA) has been considered in the preparation of the draft Annual Governance Statement.

### **3. Methodology**

- 3.1 In early 2017 Departmental Assurance Statements were sent out to all Departments seeking assurances about departmental governance arrangements.
- 3.2 In March 2017 Officers performing key corporate roles on behalf of the County Council were asked to produce an appropriate position statement based on the CIPFA Guidance.
- 3.3 A copy the emerging Annual Governance Statement has been sent to all Chief Officers, officers undertaking key corporate roles on behalf of the County Council and the Leader of the County Council for comment. The comments received have been taken into account in preparing the draft Annual Governance Statement in Annex 1.

### **4. Draft Annual Governance Statement**

- 4.1 The content of the draft Annual Governance Statement follows the CIPFA Guidance and has been prepared in relation to the County Council's new Code of Corporate Governance which was adopted by the County Council (via the Audit Committee) on 2 February 2017. Members of this Committee now have the opportunity to comment upon it and to indicate whether or not they wish to see any amendments made.

### **5. Outline of Options**

#### **5.1 Option 1**

Approve the Annual Governance Statement as drafted.

#### **5.2 Option 2**

Approve the Annual Governance Statement with amendments proposed by this Committee.

#### **5.3 Option 3**

Reject the Annual Governance Statement.

### **6. Recommendation**

It is recommended that this Committee approves the draft Annual Governance Statement for signature by the Leader of the County Council and the Chief Executive, subject to any amendments that this Committee may wish to make.

**CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**

**This proposal does not link to the Corporate Strategy but, nevertheless, requires a decision because: The preparation of an Annual Governance Statement is a statutory requirement.**

**OTHER SIGNIFICANT LINKS:**

**Links to Previous member decisions:**

Title	Ref	Date

**Direct Links to Specific Legislation or Government Directives**

Title	Date
Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations	2015

**Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents**

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
Delivering Good Governance in Local Government 2016 Edition	
Departmental Assurance Statements	

## **1. Equality Duty**

### **1.1. The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:**

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

### **1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment:**

No equality impacts have been identified relating to the decision recommended in this Report

## **2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:**

**N/A**

## **3. Climate Change:**

### **3.1. How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?**

**N/A**

### **3.2. How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?**