

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

8th May 2012

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Report of the Strategic Director for Resources

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| STRATEGIC AIM: | All |
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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To meet the statutory requirement for the Council to approve an Annual Governance Statement for inclusion in its published Statement of Accounts for 2011/12.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **That the Annual Governance Statement at Appendix A be included in the 2011/12 Statement of Accounts.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 When publishing its annual accounts, the Council is required to consider and approve an Annual Governance Statement. The draft attached as **Appendix A** sets out the Council's responsibilities, the purpose of the governance framework, the governance environment, its effectiveness and any significant areas of weakness identified with proposed actions to address them.
- 3.2 The governance framework is designed to facilitate the achievement of the Council's aims and objectives and policies, identifying and managing any risks to a reasonable level. The framework is embedded in the Constitution and the policies, procedures, operations and systems in place.
- 3.3 The review of the effectiveness of the governance environment is informed by a number of methods, including internal and external audit, and consideration by Council, Cabinet and Scrutiny Panels, and assurance statements given by service managers in respect of their areas of responsibility.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

| RISK | IMPACT | COMMENTS |
|-------------------------------|---------------|--|
| Time | LOW | The Annual Governance Statement is concluded within the statutory timetable for publication of the Statement of Accounts. |
| Viability | LOW | There are no implications. |
| Finance | LOW | There are no direct implications. |
| Profile | LOW | The Annual Governance Statement attracts little public interest. |
| Equality and Diversity | LOW | No impact assessment has been carried out as there are no direct implications. |

Background Papers
Assurance statements
of service managers -
Corporate Governance file

Report Author
Geoff Pook

Tel No: (01572) 722577
e-mail:
enquiries@rutland.gov.uk

A Large Print or Braille Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.