

# AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE

24 September 2013

## ANNUAL GOVERNANCE REPORT

Report of the Assistant Director (Finance)

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

1.1 The external auditors Annual Governance Report (AGR) to those charged with governance is appended to this report. The AGR informs the Committee on matters arising from the audit of the financial statements and the results of the work undertaken to assess the Council's arrangements to secure value for money in its use of resources.

### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee receive the Annual Governance Report and consider any issues arising;
- 2.2 That the letter of representation at Appendix 3 of the Annual Governance Report be approved and signed by the s151 Officer.

### 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Statement of Accounts (SoA) was approved for publication by the Interim Director for Resources on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2013 and submitted to the external auditor, together with accompanying working papers for the start of the audit on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013.
- 3.2 A number of minor changes were agreed with the external auditor during the course of the audit and these have been incorporated into the SoA that is reported to you for approval on a separate item on the agenda. None of the changes have affected the overall financial position and the General Fund balance at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013.
- 3.3 At the 16<sup>th</sup> April Audit and Risk Committee, the Committee were informed that the audit fee for 2012/13 was reduced following the outsourcing of the external audit to KPMG LLP from the Audit Commission. Two of the conditions of the reduced fee were that the audit would be carried out on a much reduced timescale that will not allow for several visits by the auditors and that the Council would provide all necessary

documentation as set out in the Accounts Audit Protocol up front. The audit has been completed and there are no additional audit fees to be paid.

**4. RISK MANAGEMENT**

<b>RISK</b>	<b>IMPACT</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>The report must be received by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013</b>
<b>Viability</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>No issues arising</b>
<b>Finance</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>No material issues identified</b>
<b>Profile</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>No material issues identified</b>
<b>Equality and Diversity</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>No impact assessment has been carried out as there are no direct implications</b>

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