

AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE

23 September 2014

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE REPORT

Report of the Director of Resources

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 (AGR) and consider any issues arising; and**
- 2.2 **That the letter of representation in Appendix 1 be approved and signed by the Chair of Audit and Risk and the s151 Officer (the Assistant Director - Finance).**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Statement of Accounts (SoA) was approved for publication by the Assistant Director - Finance on 27th June 2014 and submitted to the external auditor, together with accompanying working papers for the start of the audit on 30th June 2014.
- 3.2 A number of minor presentational 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 31st March 2014.
- 3.3 Members will be pleased to note that the Council has again received an unqualified audit opinion on the Statement of Accounts. The Auditors have also concluded that the Council has made proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. Two recommendations have been made to which the Council has responded in Appendix 1 of AGR.

- 3.4** The Council is required to provide a signed version of the letter of representation (Appendix A) stating the basis upon which the SoA have been compiled. The external auditors sometimes request specific assurances about certain areas but this is not the case in this instance.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

RISK	IMPACT	COMMENTS
Time	High	The report must be received by 30th September 2014
Viability	Low	No issues arising
Finance	Low	No material issues identified
Profile	Low	No material issues identified
Equality and Diversity	Low	No impact assessment has been carried out as there are no direct implications

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