

28 June 2012

Annual Governance Statement 2011/12

Report of the Chief Officer

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1 Summary

1.1 The Annual Governance Statement summarises the Authority's corporate governance arrangements. It is produced to satisfy accounting and audit regulations and has been prepared using guidance issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). The Statement takes into account guidance issued in March 2010 from CIPFA relating to the role of the chief financial officer. The draft statement is attached as Appendix 1.

1.2 After consideration and approval by the Governance Committee, the statement must be signed by the Chairman of the Authority and the Chief Officer. It forms part of the Annual Statement of Accounts.

2 Recommendation

2.1 That the Annual Governance Statement 2011/12 (set out as Appendix 1 to this report) be approved for inclusion in the Annual Statement of Accounts for 2011/12.

3 Resource implications

3.1 Other than the time spent by the officers and members in preparing the statement, there are no significant additional resources arising from the recommendation.

4 Risk analysis

4.1 The process of producing the Annual Governance Statement involves reviewing the effectiveness of a wide range of controls and measures that are indicators of the effectiveness of the Authority's framework for good corporate governance. This process therefore contributes to the Authority's risk management regime.

4.2 Failure to provide the statement would undoubtedly lead to a qualified opinion by our external auditors with inevitable damage to the

Authority's reputation.

5 People impact assessment

- 5.1 There are no concerns to bring to the attention of the Committee, and the proposals in this report are considered compatible with the provisions of the equality and human rights legislation.

Background information [Section 100D - Local Government Act 1972]

The following documents disclose facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and has been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report.

- The CIPFA Finance Advisory Network: Annual Governance Statement - Rough Guide for Practitioners
- Application Note to Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: a Framework – published by CIPFA March 2010

This list excludes:

1. any other published works.
2. The documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.

Appendix: Annual Governance Statement 2011/12