

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Decision Report**

Decision Maker	Audit Committee
Date of Decision	23 June 2016
Decision Title	Annual Governance Statement
Decision Reference	7569
Report From:	Director of Transformation and Governance and Director of Corporate Resources – Corporate Services

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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 before the end of September 2016 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 Finance Advisory Network of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) has been considered in the preparation of the draft Annual Governance Statement.

3. Methodology

- 3.1 In early 2016 Departmental Self Assessment Questionnaires were sent out to all Departments seeking assurances about performance management arrangements.
- 3.2 In March 2016 Officers performing key corporate roles on behalf of the County Council were asked to produce an appropriate position statement based on the CIPFA Financial Advisory Network 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 in Annex 1.

4. Draft Annual Governance Statement

- 4.1 The content of the draft Annual Governance Statement follows the CIPFA Finance Network Guidance. 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. Recommendations

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>
CIPFA Finance Advisory Network –Rough Guide to the Annual Governance Statement	
Departmental Self Assessment Questionnaires	

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?

