

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Decision Report**

Decision Maker	Audit Committee
Date of Decision	30 June 2010
Decision Title	Annual Governance Statement
Decision Reference	1679
Report From:	The Chief Executive and The County Treasurer

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**1) Summary of Decision Area**

Appendix B to this report contains the draft Annual Governance Statement which, pursuant to the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 as amended in 2006, must be approved by the Audit Committee before the end of June 2010 and subsequently signed by the Leader of the County Council and the Chief Executive.

MAIN REPORT

1) Contextual Information

- 1.1. The County Council is required under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 (as amended in 2006) to produce a broad based Annual Governance Statement. The Annual Governance Statement has replaced the Statement of Internal Control. The draft Annual Governance Statement in the appendix is the third such statement that has been produced on behalf of the County Council.
- 1.2. 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.
- 1.3. The Annual Governance Statement is an important and integral part of the County Council's Corporate Governance regime and the Comprehensive Area Assessment.
- 1.4. 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.
- 1.5. 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.

2) Methodology

- 2.1. In September 2008 Departmental Corporate Governance Questionnaires were sent out to all Chief Officers seeking assurances about Corporate Governance in their Departments.
- 2.2. In September 2008 Corporate Governance Questionnaires were sent to Officers fulfilling significant corporate roles on behalf of the County Council seeking assurance about corporate Governance in the County Council.
- 2.3. In February 2010 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.
- 2.4. 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 Appendix B.

3) Draft Annual Governance Statement

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.

4) Outline of Options

4.1. Option 1

Approve the Annual Governance Statement as drafted.

4.2. Option 2

Approve the Annual Governance Statement with amendments proposed by this committee.

4.3. Option 3

Reject the Annual Governance Statement.

5) 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:

LINKS TO THE CORPORATE STRATEGY		
Hampshire safer and more secure for all		Yes x <input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/> No
Corporate Business plan link no (if appropriate)		
Maximising well-being		x <input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/> No
Corporate Business plan link no (if appropriate)		
Enhancing our quality of place		x <input type="checkbox"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/> No
Corporate Business plan link no (if appropriate)		
OR		
This proposal does not link to the Corporate Strategy but, nevertheless, requires a decision because:		

OTHER SIGNIFICANT LINKS:		
Links to Previous member decisions:		
Title	Ref	Date
Direct Links to Specific Legislation or Government Directives		
Title	Date	
Accounts and Audit Regulations	2003	
Accounts and Audit (Amendment) (England) Regulations	2006	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents	
<p>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.)</p>	
<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
CIPFA Finance Advisory Network –Rough Guide to the Annual Governance Statement	
Departmental Corporate Governance Questionnaires	
Key Officer Corporate Governance Questionnaires	

Agenda Item:

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

a) N/A

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

a) N/A

3. Climate Change:

a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

- N/A

b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

- N/A