

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Policy and Governance	Governance Committee	20 September 2017

## ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT - AMENDMENT

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To inform members of proposed amendments to the Annual Governance Statement which have been suggested after consideration by external audit.

### RECOMMENDATION(S)

- That the amended Annual Governance Statement attached to this report be approved for adoption and signature by the Executive Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF REPORT

- At the Committee meeting on 21 June Governance Committee approved a draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS) which forms part of the Council's Statement of Accounts.
- Following approval and as part of the audit process External Audit have reviewed the AGS and suggested some amendments which have now been incorporated into the attached document. The changes do not affect the conclusions of the AGS, that the Council have a robust system of corporate governance, but enhance the document by providing additional supporting evidence.

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No

### CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all		A strong local economy	
Clean, safe and healthy communities		An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area	

### BACKGROUND

- Members are asked to consider the Annual Governance Statement report presented to Committee on 21 June last.
- At that meeting Members approved the AGS for signature and attaching to the council's Statement of Accounts.
- Following this meeting the AGS was considered by external audit who suggested some amendments. The amendments are detailed below. They seek to enhance the references to evidence which demonstrates the council's compliance with our governance framework.

9. It is important to note that the AGS as drafted satisfied the requirements of the CIPFA SOLACE Framework, but the amendments would make it clearer how the Council discharges its obligations.

### SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS

10. External audit made the following recommendations:-
- Greater information should be provided concerning the role of the Section 151 Officer and Head of Shared Assurance Service;
  - The Council's arrangements for counter fraud and anti-corruption should be given greater prominence;
  - More information should be provided as to the communications between the Council and external audit;
  - It should be made clear that the Governance Committee fulfils the functions of an Audit Committee;
  - Greater reference should be made to partnership working;

In other areas it was suggested to provide additional examples of compliance to give a fuller picture of the steps the Council take.

### IMPLICATIONS OF REPORT

11. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

Finance		Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal	X	Integrated Impact Assessment required?	
No significant implications in this area		Policy and Communications	

### COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER

12. None

### COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

13. None

CHRIS SINNOTT  
DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

Background Papers			
Document	Date	File	Place of Inspection
Annual Governance Statement	21 June 2017	***	<a href="http://mod/documents/s75856/Annual%20Governance%20Statement.pdf">http://mod/documents/s75856/Annual%20Governance%20Statement.pdf</a>
Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Chris Moister	5160	8 September 2017	