

**REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT**

**DRAFT ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT – 2014/15**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform Members of the proposed Annual Governance Statement 2014/15 and to invite Members to consider and approve the Statement prior to its accompanying the Statement of Accounts 2014/15.

**Information and Advice**

2. The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 require the Authority to review the effectiveness of its system of internal control and publish an annual governance statement, prepared in accordance with proper practices in relation to internal control.
3. Using guidance developed by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives, an Annual Governance Statement has been drafted and is attached. The draft Statement was discussed by the Corporate Leadership Team on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2015 and endorsed by the Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer.
4. As the Statement covers corporate governance and risk management issues, it needs to be referred to Full Council which will be done as part of the approval process for the Statement of Accounts 2014/15.

**Other Options Considered**

5. The requirement to publish an annual governance statement is set out in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011. No other options are available.

**Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

6. To set out how the Authority has met its' governance responsibilities for 2014/15.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

7. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

1) That the Committee endorses the Annual Governance Statement 2014/15 and makes any comments or recommendations which it considers ought to be included in the report which is required to be taken to the next appropriate Council meeting, to accompany the Statement of Accounts 2014/15.

**Nigel Stevenson**  
**Service Director (Finance and Procurement)**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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### **Constitutional Comments (SLB 11/5/2015)**

8. The proposal in the report is within the remit of the Audit Committee.

### **Financial Comments (JMB 30/4/15)**

9. The Statement is required to demonstrate the Authority has a sound system of governance and internal control in place. This is important for the overall control of the Authority's finances as well as other areas of its operation. However, it has no direct financial implications.

### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- None

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

- All