



**REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNANCE & ETHICS
COMMITTEE**

**LOCAL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND ANNUAL
GOVERNANCE STATEMENT – 2016/17**

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform Members of a proposed Local Code of Corporate Governance for Nottinghamshire County Council, the proposed Annual Governance Statement 2016/17 and to seek Members' approval of the Statement prior to it accompanying the Statement of Accounts 2016/17.

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 (**Appendix 2**). This guidance was updated for the 2016/17 financial year, and the opportunity has been taken to prepare a separate Local Code of Corporate Governance (draft attached as **Appendix 1**). Previously, the practice at this Council has been for the Annual Governance Statement to incorporate the key features of the Council's governance arrangements. In accordance with best practice, it is now proposed to set out the Code of Corporate Governance as a separate document, which may be posted on the Authority's website as a clear statement of the importance that this Council affords to governance issues. This then allows the Annual Governance Statement to become a more targeted document, focused on the assessment of how well the Code has been operating in practice during 2016/17.
4. The Annual Governance Statement has been drawn up on the basis of a range of evidence sources:
 - The outcomes of the quarterly governance meetings of the three statutory officers (Chief Executive, the Monitoring Officer and the Chief Financial Officer);
 - Assurance statements received from Corporate Directors and other key officers regarding the operation of the governance framework during 2016/17 in their areas of responsibility
 - Other evidence supplied by relevant officers or obtained from the Council's website to support the assessment of specific aspects of the Code.

5. The Statement was endorsed by the Governance & Ethics Committee at its meeting on 19th July 2017, and it has been signed off by the Leader of the Council and by the Chief Executive.

Other Options Considered

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

Reason for Recommendation

7. To set out how the Authority has met its governance responsibilities for 2016/17.

Statutory and Policy Implications

This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), 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. To approve the Local Code of Corporate Governance and the Annual Governance Statement 2016/17.

Councillor Bruce Laughton
Chairman of Governance & Ethics Committee

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Rob Disney - Head of Internal Audit

Constitutional Comments (SLB 16/8/17)

Full Council is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

Financial Comments (SES 17/08/17)

There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers

None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All

