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| Report To: | Corporate Governance Committee |
| Date of Meeting: | 27 April 2016 |
| Lead Member / Officer: | Barbara Smith – Lead Member for Modernisation & Housing Alan Smith – Head of Business Improvement & Modernisation |
| Report Author: | Ivan Butler – Head of Internal Audit |
| Title: | Draft Annual Governance and Improvement Statement 2015-16 |

1. What is the report about?

This report provides the draft self-assessment report on the Council's governance and improvement arrangements for 2015/16.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

The report provides the Committee with the opportunity to comment on the first draft of this year's 'annual governance statement'.

3. What are the Recommendations?

The Committee reviews and comments on the draft 'annual governance statement' for 2015/16 (Appendix 1).

4. Report details

The Annual Governance and Improvement Statement 2015/16 includes a self-assessment of the Council's governance arrangements and shows areas of improvement during the previous financial year. It highlights any weaknesses in an action plan, which this Committee will monitor to ensure implementation of the necessary improvements.

The Committee should note that this is an early draft that is still a work in progress and has a few areas that still need to be added and finalised. The agreed final version will be signed by the Chief Executive and Leader by 30 June 2016 and presented to this Committee with the Statement of Accounts.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

While the 'annual governance statement' self-assessment does not directly contribute to Corporate Priorities, it provides an assessment and assurance on the delivery of the Corporate Plan, the Council's operational and financial performance, governance arrangements, community engagement etc. that are all directed towards delivering the Corporate Priorities.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

Not applicable - there is no decision and no costs attached to this report.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision? The completed EqIA template should be attached as an appendix to the report

This report does not require a decision or proposal for change, so there is no impact on people who share protected characteristics.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

Corporate Executive Team has been consulted on the draft Statement – no comments received.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

There are no financial implications attached to this report.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

If the Governance Improvement Plan is not implemented, weaknesses will remain in the Council's governance arrangements, which could lead to:

- adverse regulatory reports;
- poor use of public money;
- failure to improve key corporate and service areas;
- loss of stakeholder confidence; and
- an adverse impact on the Council's reputation.

11. Power to make the Decision

Not applicable - there is no decision required with this report.