

**Report To:** Corporate Governance Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 25 April 2018

**Lead Member / Officer:** Alan Smith – Head of Business Improvement & Modernisation

**Report Author:** Lisa Lovegrove – Chief Internal Auditor

**Title:** Annual Governance Statement 2017-18

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**1. What is the report about?**

To demonstrate good governance, the Council must show that it is complying with the core principles set out in the revised Framework for Delivering Good Governance in Local Government (Wales) 2016 edition. The Annual Governance Statement (AGS) is prepared using a self-assessment and reports on the Council's governance and improvement arrangements for 2017-18, along with progress in addressing the improvement actions contained within the AGS 2016-17. The AGS is reported as part of the final "Statement of Accounts".

**2. What is the reason for making this report?**

The report provides the Committee with the opportunity to comment on this years 'annual governance statement'.

**3. What are the Recommendations?**

The Committee monitor the progress made on the action plan from 2016-17 and reviews and approves the draft annual governance statement for 2017-18 (Appendix 1).

**4. Report details**

The Annual Governance Statement 2017-18 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. Full details are provided in Appendix 1.

**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 required with 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**

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

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

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

**9. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

Not applicable - there is no decision required with 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.