

North Somerset Council

REPORT TO THE

AUDIT COMMITTEE

DATE OF MEETING:

3RD MARCH 2016

SUBJECT OF REPORT:

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE REVIEW 2015/16

OFFICER PRESENTING:

JEFF WRING - HEAD OF AUDIT WEST

1. SUMMARY OF REPORT

This report provides a brief overview of the process for completion of the Annual Governance Statement for 2015/16.

2. POLICY

- 2.1 The council adopted a Local Code of Corporate Governance, which is consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government*, in September 2013.
- 2.2 The Annual Governance Statement explains how North Somerset Council has complied with the Local Code of Corporate Governance and also meets the requirements of:
 - The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 as amended by the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2006, specifically Regulation 4(2) in respect of the preparation and publication of a Statement on Internal Control; and
 - The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011, specifically Regulation 4 (2) in respect of the annual review of the effectiveness of its system of internal control and Regulation 4 (4) in respect of the preparation and publication of an Annual Governance Statement.

3. DETAILS

Process for 2015/16 Statement

An overview of the process for the compilation and approval of the Annual Governance Statement for 2015/16 is attached at Appendix A. This is similar to the process adopted in previous years.

The process diagram indicates the major steps in the process for compiling the statement and the outcome will be a final Annual Governance Statement ratified by Full Council following review by the Audit Committee.

As reported last year there were no significant issues identified in the 2014/15 statement.

4. CONSULTATION

This report describes the Annual Governance Review process which members are invited to comment upon.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Annual Governance Statement describes how the council complies with its Local Code of Governance which incorporates all the council's business and hence budget.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT

Failure to compile an Annual Governance Statement would result in non-compliance with statutory legislation and leave the Council open to criticism by External Audit and external stakeholders.

7. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

None.

8. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

The production of an Annual Governance Statement is an explicit statutory requirement of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations.

The completed Annual Governance Statement is reviewed by the Council's External Auditor.

9. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

AUTHOR

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance

APPENDIX A



