

AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 15 JANUARY 2014

REVIEW OF THE CORPORATE GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK

Report by the County Solicitor and Monitoring Officer

Introduction

1. The Council needs to have a good system of Governance - so that how we consider and take decisions is clear to everyone. This paper reports progress on improving our governance arrangements. It also updates one key document that is part of our governance system.

Annual Governance Statement - Progress

2. One key element of the governance process is our 'Annual Governance Statement' (AGS). This considers our whole governance system and is published as part of our Final Accounts. The AGS includes seven actions considered necessary to improve things and planned to be implemented in 2013/14. Annex 1 sets out:
 - What the actions are;
 - What the timescale for completing them is;
 - Which officer is responsible for completing them;
 - Which body monitors progress; and
 - What progress has been made by November 2013
3. Good progress has been made on most of the seven actions.

A revised Corporate Governance Assurance Framework

4. Annex 2 is a revised version of our 'Corporate Governance Assurance Framework'. This introduces governance as an issue and explains the background for local government. It goes on to give details of our source of assurance, including the AGS, External Audit, External inspections and Approval of Corporate Governance Policies. It then lists and describes the various officers, committees and groups involved in the Governance process. Finally, a diagram sets out the relationships between the various groups and people involved in the governance process.

Financial and Staff Implications

5. Governance arrangements are in place so there are no new financial or staffing requirements as a result of this report. We are however changing the way we do things and partly in response to that, developing our governance system.

RECOMMENDATION

6. **The Committee is RECOMMENDED to approve the Corporate Governance Assurance Framework.**

PETER CLARK
County Solicitor and Monitoring Officer

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Background papers: None

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