



**AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**  
29 May 2014

**2013/14 Annual Governance Statement**

**Purpose of the report:**

This report presents the Annual Governance Statement, which provides an assessment of the council's governance arrangements for the financial year ending 31 March 2014.

The annual review of governance and publication of an Annual Governance Statement is a statutory requirement of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011.

**Recommendations:**

The Committee is asked to:

1. Review the contents of the draft Annual Governance Statement to satisfy themselves that the governance arrangements are represented correctly; and
2. Commend the draft Annual Governance Statement to the Cabinet for publication with the council's Statement of Accounts.

**Introduction:**

- 1 Surrey County Council's 'Code of Corporate Governance' describes the good governance principles adopted by the council and by which the governance arrangements are assessed. It also details the methodology by which the annual review of governance is undertaken.
- 2 The review of governance is overseen by the Governance Panel (Head of Legal and Democratic Services [chair], Chief Finance Officer, senior representatives from HR and Policy & Performance, Chief Internal Auditor and Risk & Governance Manager), which has the responsibility for the development and maintenance of the governance environment and production of the Annual Governance Statement (AGS).

**Draft Annual Governance Statement:**

- 3 The 2013/14 draft AGS developed by the Governance Panel is attached at Annex A. The Continual Improvement Board, Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council have been consulted and their comments are incorporated.

**Monitoring and Review:**

- 4 The Governance Panel will continually review the governance arrangements throughout the year, as well as focusing on the specific areas identified in the AGS. Governance update reports will be presented to the Audit and Governance Committee throughout the year as appropriate.

**Implications:****Financial**

- 5 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

**Equalities**

- 6 There are no direct equalities implications of this report.

**Risk management**

- 7 Effective governance arrangements lead to value for money and delivery of objectives.

**Next Steps:**

The AGS will be presented to Cabinet for approval on 24 June 2014 and will then be signed by the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council and incorporated into the council's Statement of Accounts for 2013/14.

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Sources/background papers: Governance panel minutes. Working papers. Code of Corporate Governance. CIPFA/SOLACE framework *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government*.

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