



Audit & Governance Committee
25 July 2016

Annual Report of Surrey County Council

Purpose of the report:

To formally consider the Annual Report for the authority

Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

1. Note and endorse the Annual Report (Annex A) for the authority

Introduction:

2. Since 2011-12, the corporate Annual Report has been set out similar to a corporate organisational annual report. Last year the audited financial statements were included. Considering readers of the report, we intentionally have maintained a similar format to last year for familiarity.

Changes to the annual report

3. This year emphasis has been to maintain same format of the report with few changes. The only changes relate to reporting how we operate and our focus. Included in the annual report 2015-16 is:
 - Partnership review by the Chief Executive
 - Focusing the extensive planning against the significant pressures for next five years
4. Currently, there is little guidance for local authorities publishing an annual report. Corporate organisations published their annual reports depending on Companies Act, Financial regulations, Accountancy bodies guidance and the optional International Integrated Reporting Council (IIRC). We have been referring to the IIRC guidance and examples to improve our format.

5. The endorsement of the Audit & Governance Committee will formalise the completion of the 2015-16 Annual Report. Council delegates responsibility to the Audit & Governance committee to receive the audited Statement of Accounts and the result of the external audit, and approval of the Annual Report supplements this process.

Conclusions:

6. The county council's annual report, set out in Annex A, provides a thorough review of 2015-16
7. The Annual Report 2015-16 will be available and published (external website and paper) in August.

Financial and value for money implications

8. There are no direct financial implications of this report, all financial implications in the accounts have been made in line with the Code of Practice and any impact on the 2015-16 budget has been considered in the outturn report to the Cabinet.

Equalities and Diversity Implications

9. There are no direct equalities implications of this report.

Risk Management Implications

10. There are no direct risk management implications of this report.

Next steps:

The Annual report 2015-16 will be available and published (external website and paper) in August.

Report contact: Verity Royle, Senior Principal Accountant, Finance Service

Contact details: 020 8541 9225 / verity.royle@surreycc.gov.uk

Sources/background papers:

Financial Outturn 2015/16 – Report to Cabinet 26 April 2016.

Statement of Accounts 2015/16 – Report to Audit & Governance Committee 25 July 2016