



Audit & Governance Committee  
13 June 2017

**2016/17 Draft Annual Governance Statement**

**Purpose of the report:**

This report presents the draft Annual Governance Statement, which summarises the council's governance arrangements for the financial year ending 31 March 2017.

**Recommendations**

It is recommended that the committee:

1. Review the contents of the draft Annual Governance Statement (Annex A) 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 The council is required to annually review the effectiveness of its governance arrangements and produce an Annual Governance Statement. Surrey County Council's Governance Strategy and Code of Corporate Governance details the six good governance principles adopted by the council and by which the governance arrangements are assessed. The Code of Corporate Governance also details the methodology by which the annual review of governance is undertaken.
- 2 The review of governance is overseen by the Governance Panel (Director of Legal, Democratic and Cultural Services [chair], senior representatives from Finance, HR and Strategy & 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.
- 3 The 2016/17 annual governance review has provided a satisfactory level of assurance on the council's governance arrangements.

## Annual Governance Statement 2016/17

- 4 The 2016/17 draft Annual Governance Statement developed by the Governance Panel is attached at Annex A. There are two main sections:

Section	Pages	Detail
The governance environment	3 to 8	Summarises the council's key policies, procedures and arrangements that evidence good governance.  Includes the overall opinion of the Chief Internal Auditor on the internal control environment.
Focus for 2017/18	9	Outlines areas that the council will focus on during the year ahead to ensure continued good governance.

### Consultation

- 5 The Statutory Responsibilities Network, Chief Executive, Leader of the Council and Deputy Leader have been consulted and their comments are incorporated.

## Monitoring and review

- 6 The Governance Panel will continually review the governance arrangements throughout the year and governance update reports will be presented to the Audit and Governance Committee throughout the year as appropriate.

## Implications

### Financial

- 7 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Continued improvements in governance will help to deliver value for money for residents.

### Equalities

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

### Risk management

- 9 Strong governance arrangements support the council in the effective delivery of services and achievement of objectives.

## What happens next

The draft Annual Governance Statement will be presented to Cabinet for approval on 27 June 2017, signed by the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council and then incorporated into the council's Statement of Accounts for 2016/17.

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Sources/background papers: Governance panel minutes. Annual review of governance working papers. Code of Corporate Governance. CIPFA/SOLACE framework *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government*. 2015/16 AGS. Audit and Governance Committee papers.

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