



AUDIT COMMITTEE - 11TH JUNE 2014

SUBJECT: ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR 2013-2014

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES & S151 OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To allow Members the opportunity to review the draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for 2013-14 and make any changes that they feel are required and justifiable.

2. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 2.1 This report deals with Corporate Governance, which is fundamental to the efficient and effective running of Council business.

3. THE REPORT

- 3.1 Attached as Appendix 1 is the draft Annual Governance Statement for 2013-14 to allow Members to consider and make comments.
- 3.2 The draft AGS incorporates a number of changes to the previous year's AGS, which is attached as Appendix 2. The majority of the changes relate to the fact that the Authority has made much progress in respect of its Improving Governance Programme. This progress has been acknowledged in the Special Inspection Report presented to Council on 28 January 2014 by the Wales Audit Office (WAO). It is acknowledged that there are still improvements that can be made, as with all service provision. Hence, the work of the IGPB (Improving Governance Programme Board) continues.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no additional financial implications in respect of the preparation of the AGS.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct equalities implications stemming from this report on any group identified in Section 6 of the Council's Strategic Equality Plan, therefore an impact assessment has not been carried out.

6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no personnel implications in respect of the preparation of the AGS.

7. CONSULTATIONS

- 7.1. The draft AGS has been considered by the Corporate Governance Panel on 14 May 2014 and Corporate Management Team on 22 May 2014. All comments have been reflected in the draft AGS attached.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 Members are requested to consider the draft AGS and advise and agree any changes that can be justified.

Author: Nicole Scammell, Acting Director of Corporate Services & S151 Officer
Consultees: Stuart Rosser, Interim Chief Executive
Sandra Aspinall, Deputy Chief Executive
Dave Street, Director of Social Services
Cllr C. Forehead, Cabinet Member for HR & Governance / Business Manager
Gail Williams, Acting Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer
Richard Harris, Internal Audit Manager
Joanne Jones, Interim SIRO
Colin Jones, Head of Performance & Property
Steve Harris, Acting Head of Corporate Finance

Appendix 1: Draft Annual Governance Statement for 2013-14
Appendix 2: Annual Governance Statement for 2012-13