



AUDIT COMMITTEE - 10TH JUNE 2015

SUBJECT: ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR 2014/15

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 2014/15 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 2014/15 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) and a further follow up published in January 2015 and presented to Council on 27 January 2015. It is acknowledged that there are still improvements that can be made, 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 22 May 2015 and Corporate Management Team on 29 May 2015. 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 they feel can be justified.

Author: Nicole Scammell, Acting Director of Corporate Services & S151 Officer

Consultees: Chris Burns, Interim Chief Executive
Dave Street, Corporate 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
Lynton Jones, Acting Head of ICT & Communications (Senior Information Risk Owner) (SIRO)
Colin Jones, Head of Performance & Property
Steve Harris, Acting Head of Corporate Finance

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Draft Annual Governance Statement for 2014/15

Appendix 2: Annual Governance Statement for 2013/14