



Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED
All

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETING
Audit and Risk Committee

29 September 2014

Annual Governance Statement 2013 - 2014

Report of the Director of Finance

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To seek the approval of Audit and Risk Committee for the Council's Annual Governance Statement 2013 – 2014.

2. Recommendations (or OPTIONS)

- 2.1. The Committee is recommended to approve the Council's Annual Governance Statement 2013 - 2014 as detailed within this report.

3. Summary

- 3.1. The Council is required to publish, as part of its financial accounts reporting, an Annual Governance Statement. This statement should assure the people of Leicester that the Council operates in accordance with the law and has due regard to proper standards of behaviour and that it safeguards the public purse. This statement has to be completed by the end of September each year.

4. Report

- 4.1. Members are reminded that the format required is dictated to a large extent by the principles of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)/Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) framework 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government'. The Annual Governance Statement (AGS) 2013-14 is attached as Appendix 1.
- 4.2. The AGS was produced last year with the support of both the Strategic and Operational Boards, albeit under an extremely tight timescale. This year the process began earlier to allow more meaningful contributions to be made by Divisions. The previous, labour intensive process used to complete this statement was agreed last year as no longer being fit for purpose and, aside from the time restraint, this new process has worked well again, in its second year.

- 4.3 The steps taken, as agreed by Strategic Directors on 29 April and Operational Directors on 7 May, to complete the 2013-14 Statement have been:
- Strategic Directors reviewed last year's 'Director's Certification' and considered what this year's content and highlights should be;
 - Divisional Directors then reviewed last year's 'Director's Certification' and considered what should this year's content and highlights be in consultation with their Strategic Director. In particular, Directors needed to review and update the areas of significant risk or priorities for action identified last year;
 - Submissions (from those Directors listed within the 'Consultations' at section 7 below) were sent to the Head of Internal Audit and Risk Management by the end of June 2014;
 - Final version approved by the Corporate Management Team at its meeting on 3 September.
- 4.4 The final step in the process is now for the approved Annual Governance Statement 2013-14 to be presented for agreement here to the Committee, along with the financial accounts of which this is part.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1. Financial Implications

5.1.1 'There are no financial implications arising directly from this report, although the annual governance statement helps to provide assurance about the proper use of the Council's resources'. Colin Sharpe, Head of Finance – 37 4081.

5.2. Legal Implications

5.2.1 There are no direct Legal implications. Kamal Adatia, City Barrister and Head of Standards – 37 1401.

6. Other Implications

| OTHER IMPLICATIONS | YES/ NO | Paragraph/References Within Supporting information |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|---|
| Risk Management | Yes | All of the paper. |
| Climate Change | No | |
| Equal Opportunities | No | |
| Policy | Yes | All of the paper. |
| Sustainable and Environmental | No | |
| Crime and Disorder | No | |
| Human Rights Act | No | |
| Elderly/People on Low Income | No | |
| Corporate Parenting | No | |
| Health Inequalities Impact | No | |

7. Consultations

Andy Keeling, Chief Operating Officer
 Miranda Cannon, Director, Delivery, Communications and Political Governance
 Kamal Adatia, City Barrister and Head of Standards
 Alison Greenhill, Director of Finance
 Ruth Lake, Director, Adult Social Care and Safeguarding
 Tracie Rees, Director, Care Services and Commissioning
 Liz Blyth, Director, Culture and Neighbourhood Services
 Andrew L Smith, Director, Planning, Transportation and Economic Development
 Ann Branson, Director, Housing
 Jill Craig, Director, Information Services
 Rod Moore, Director, Public Health
 Finance Division Senior Management Team

8. Report Author

8.1. Tony Edeson, Head of Internal Audit and Risk Management – 37 1621.