

Audit and Governance Committee

26 June 2015

6. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Recommendation

1. **The Chief Executive recommends that the Annual Governance Statement be approved.**

Background Information

2. The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011 require the County Council to conduct a review at least once a year of the effectiveness of its system of internal control and publish an Annual Governance Statement (AGS) each year with the Authority's financial statements.

Responsibility for the review and approval of the AGS has been delegated to this Committee.

3. The purpose of the AGS process is to provide a continuous review of the effectiveness of internal control and risk management systems so as to obtain assurance of their effectiveness.

4. This assurance is obtained from reliance on signed certificates from each Head of Service, and in turn from each Chief Officer.

5. In preparing their own assurance certificate, each Chief Officer has confirmed:

(a) that the Corporate Plan adequately identifies the principal statutory obligations and organisational objectives that fall within their responsibilities;

(b) that these are reflected appropriately and managed in their Directorate Risk Registers; and

(c) the extent to which their internal control systems were effective during the year.

Any issues arising have been reflected where appropriate in the AGS.

6. The Annual Governance Statement confirms the overall assurance of the Council's systems and has been signed by the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council and is attached as an appendix.

Supporting Information

Annual Governance Statement – Appendix

Contact Points

Contact Points for this Report

Clare Marchant, Chief Executive (01905 6100) Email:

Background Papers

cmarchant@worcestershire.gov.uk

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Chief Executive) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:-

Statement of Accounts 2014/15