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**ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

Committee: Corporate Governance & Finance Committee

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> September 2015

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[Q74]

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1.0 **ISSUE**

1.1 To consider the Annual Governance Statement for the financial year 2014/15.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2.1 That the Annual Governance Statement for the financial year 2014/15 be approved and signed by the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council.

3.0 **BACKGROUND/OPTIONS**

3.1 The Accounts & Audit Regulations 2011 requires the Council to conduct at least annually a review of the effectiveness of its governance framework, including the system of internal control, and to prepare an Annual Governance Statement for publication alongside the Council's Accounts. In addition the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council are required to sign the Annual Governance Statement.

3.2 Key elements to the production of the Annual Governance Statement are the annual review of the Council's Code of Corporate Governance, which is based on best practice contained within CIPFA/SOLACE guidance and the Internal Audit Annual Report and Opinion.

3.3 Section 5 of the Annual Governance Statement highlights the significant governance issues arising from the review of the governance arrangements and the actions planned to address the weaknesses identified.

4.0 **ARGUMENTS/CONCLUSIONS**

4.1 The Annual Governance Statement indicates how the Council is complying with its Code of Corporate Governance including internal control arrangements. The suggested action plan detailed in Section 5 of the Statement will address the significant governance issues identified by the review.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

5.1 There are no additional financial implications arising from this report.

5.2 Equality Impact Assessment (INRA) not required.

6.0 APPENDICES

6.1 Appendix 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2014/15.

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<b><u>Background Documents</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Contact Officer</u></b>
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