



FULL COUNCIL REPORT

Date Written	13 th September 2016
Report Author	Louise Ballinger / Gary Evans
Exempt/Non Exempt	Non Exempt
Committee Date	28 th September 2016

To: Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen

Annual Governance Statement for Financial Year 2015/16.

1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

1.1 For Councillors to receive and approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2015/16.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 The Annual Governance Statement 2015/16 be approved.

3.0 INTRODUCTION

3.1 The Accounts and Audit (Wales) regulations 2014 require that Council annually approve a Statement on Internal Control (SIC) for each financial year and that the SIC accompanies the audited Statement of Accounts.

3.2 Guidance has been received which indicates that the inclusion of the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) with the Statement of Accounts instead of the SIC is regarded as best practice for Wales. The production of an AGS to accompany the accounts in respect of the 2015/2016 financial year meets the requirement to produce a SIC.

3.3 The Annual Governance Statement has been presented to Corporate Management Team, the Governance, Performance, Business Change and Corporate Services

Scrutiny Committee, the Audit Committee, the Leader of the Council, the Chief Executive and External Audit. The Annual Governance Statement is attached as Appendix 1.

4.0 FORMAT OF ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (AGS)

- 4.1 A standard format for the AGS has been produced by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) as shown below:
- 1) Scope of Responsibility.
 - 2) The Purpose of the Governance Framework.
 - 3) The Governance Framework (this includes a description of the key elements of the systems and processes).
 - 4) Review of Effectiveness.
 - 5) Significant Governance Issues.
- 4.2 It is important to recognise that the AGS covers all significant corporate systems, processes and controls, spanning the whole range of the Council's activities, including in particular those designed to ensure that:
- The Council's policies are implemented in practice;
 - High-quality services are delivered efficiently and effectively;
 - The Council's values and ethical standards are met;
 - Laws and regulations are complied with;
 - Required processes are adhered to;
 - Performance statements and other published information are accurate and reliable; and
 - Human, financial and other resources are managed efficiently and effectively.
- 4.3 The AGS should be approved at a meeting of the Council or delegated committee and signed by the Chief Executive and a Leading Member (usually the Leader of the Council).
- 4.4 The AGS for 2015/16 was considered by Audit Committee on 22nd September. Audit Committee recommended to Full Council that the Annual Governance Statement 2015/16 be approved.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 5.1 None specifically identified in this report although good Corporate Governance supports sound financial management and helps maximise financial resources and minimise losses. Some of the issues identified in the AGS may result in additional costs to address them. These will be identified at the appropriate time along with potential options for funding them.

6.0 SINGLE INTEGRATED PLAN AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT SUMMARY

6.1 The Single Integrated Plan and Sustainability Impact Assessment has been completed and the proposals positively impact on Sustainable Development, Financial Sustainability of Public Services and Working with Communities. No negative impacts have been identified.

7.0 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) form has been prepared for the purpose of this report. It has been found that full assessment is not required at this time. The form can be accessed on the Council's website/intranet via the 'Equality Impact Assessment' link.

GARETH CHAPMAN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

COUNCILLOR PHIL WILLIAMS
CABINET MEMBER FOR GOVERNANCE
& CORPORATE SERVICES

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Title of Document(s)	Document(s) Date	Document Location
CIPFA Guidance AGS Evidence File	2015/16 Financial Year	Internal Audit Internal Audit
Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?		No