

## **AC20. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2014/15**

The Committee considered a report by the Chief Executive presenting the Annual Governance Statement for inclusion in the Council's 2014/15 Annual Accounts.

The report summarised:-

- the arrangements for reporting on the Council's governance framework for the year to 31 March 2015; and
- the six principles of good governance as defined in the 2007 CIPFA and SOLACE guidance 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government'.

A draft Annual Assurance Statement was attached as an appendix.

Members then commented on the Statement, in particular the use of Freedom of Information Requests by elected members to receive information from Services and on the need for committee reports to be clear and concise.

In regard to engagement with stakeholders, members discussed the consultation undertaken on the 2015/16 budget. The Chief Executive, in response, confirmed that the 2016/17 budget consultation was currently being planned. She also confirmed that Council had requested a review of Standing Orders following the revision to the decision making structures in March 2015, and that this would be taken forward in accordance with Council's decision.

### **Decision**

**The Committee approved the draft Annual Governance Statement and noted:-**

- (1) the Council's compliance with requirements for an annual review of the effectiveness of the Council's system of internal control, and inclusion of an Annual Governance Statement in the Annual Accounts; and**
- (2) that the Annual Governance Statement will form part of the Council's 2014/15 Annual Accounts.**