

Audit and Corporate Governance Committee Report

Report of Head of Legal and Democratic Services

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To: AUDIT AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

DATE: 30 JUNE 2008

AGENDA ITEM NO 13

Annual Governance Statement

Recommendation

That the committee approves the Annual Governance Statement for inclusion in the Statement of Accounts subject to amendments arising from further discussions with external auditors and reported to this meeting.

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the committee's approval of the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for inclusion in the council's Statement of Accounts subject to amendments arising from further discussions with external auditors.

Strategic Objectives

2. The AGS brings together all of the council's strategies, initiatives and work plans. It provides the basis from which the council can fulfil its role as a community leader in South Oxfordshire.

Background

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

3. The Accounts and Audit Regulations (2003) as amended by the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2006 require local authorities to carry out a review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control and risk

management and publish an Annual Governance Statement each year with the annual Statement of Accounts.

4. The committee received reports at its March meeting setting out the framework of the statement and the sources of assurance behind this statement. The AGS for 2008 is included with this report from page three onwards.

Financial Implications

5. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Legal Implications

6. The AGS complies with the Accounts and Audit Regulations (2003) as amended by the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2006.

Conclusion

7. The committee is asked to approve the AGS for inclusion in the Statement of Accounts.

8. Background papers:

- None