

Audit and Corporate Governance Committee Report

Report of Head of Legal and Democratic Services

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To: AUDIT AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

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AGENDA ITEM NO 10

Draft Annual Governance Statement 2008/09

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to ask the committee to consider the draft Annual Governance Statement 2008/09 (AGS). The committee is asked to seek clarification of any of the assurances within the AGS, comment on its content and note that the version of the AGS that it will see in June 2009 will be expanded upon to ensure that the AGS is up to date when the accounts are signed.

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

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. It is a good practice requirement that a committee considers a draft of the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) at a separate meeting to that at which the committee considers the financial statements. As the committee will consider the

financial statements at its June 2009 meeting, this March meeting allows the committee to consider the AGS separately. In June the committee will be asked to approve the final AGS.

5. The AGS contains a review of the effectiveness of the governance system within the council from April 2008 to March 2009. Section 3 sets out the council's governance framework. Section 4 contains a review of the activities against the governance framework set out in section 3.
6. As the AGS needs to be current at the time of signing the accounts, the content of this AGS will be added to for the meeting in June 2009.

Financial Implications

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

Legal Implications

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

Conclusion

9. The committee is asked to seek clarification of any of the assurances within the AGS, comment on its content and note that the version of the AGS that it will see in June 2009 will be expanded upon to ensure that the AGS is up to date when the accounts are signed.

Background papers:

- None