

DRAFT ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2008-09

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1. Purpose

- 1.1 To bring the draft Annual Governance Statement for 2008-09 to the Committee's attention.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Committee consider and recommend to the Council for approval the draft Annual Governance Statement attached as Annex A.**

3. Issues and Choices

- 3.1 The preparation and publication of an Annual Governance Statement (AGS), in accordance with the CIPFA/SOLACE Good Governance Framework, produced in partnership between those organisations and others, is now a statutory requirement under Regulation 4(2) of the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2006. The AGS, which the Regulations require to be "signed off" by the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council, replaces the previous Statement on Internal Control published with the Annual Accounts to provide an overview of governance within the Council.
- 3.2 A working group of officers, led by the Director of Finance, has been commissioned to prepare the AGS.
- 3.3 The Standards Committee and the Audit Committee have joint and complementary responsibilities for the good governance of the Council - the Standards Committee for ensuring and promoting good ethical conduct and the Audit Committee for overseeing the effectiveness of the Council's financial, audit, and risk management processes. It is therefore appropriate that the Standards Committee reviewed an earlier draft of the AGS at its meeting on 16th June - comments from that committee will be reported to the Audit Committee.
- 3.4 The intention is that the Audit Committee will receive quarterly reports on progress with implementing the agreed action plan arising from the AGS.