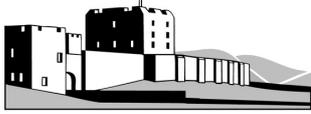


**CARLISLE
CITY COUNCIL**



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AUDIT COMMITTEE

Committee Report

Public

Date of Meeting: 5th July 2011

Title: ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Report of: Assistant Director (Resources)

Report reference: RD23/11

Summary:

The draft Annual Governance Statement for 2010/11 will be circulated to Members once it has been certified by the Council's S151 Officer, in accordance with statutory requirements, by 30th June. This will then be formally approved following the completion of the audit process at the end of September.

Any weaknesses identified during the preparation of the Annual Governance Statement are reported regularly to this Committee and Appendix A provides an update on actions previously identified.

Recommendations:

Members are requested to:

- (i) note the attached Action Plan and the current position relating to each of the areas that have been identified; and
- (ii) note the contents of the 2010/11 Annual Governance Statement (to be circulated prior to the meeting), noting that this statement will accompany the annual Statement of Accounts.

Contact Officer: Alison Taylor

Ext. 7290

CITY OF CARLISLE

To: The Audit Committee
5th July 2011

RD23/11

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The CIPFA/SOLACE Framework document “Delivering Good Governance in Local Government” (and subsequent application note) requires the Council to revise and update its Code of Corporate Governance and to produce an Annual Governance Statement signed by the S151 Officer and the Chief Executive (if required).
- 1.2 The Framework also requires the Council to draw up an Action Plan in order to address weaknesses and to ensure that continuous improvement of the system of control is in place.
- 1.3 CIPFA has issued “The Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Local Government” which the Council must have regard to when preparing its Annual Governance Statement and when ensuring compliance with the principles contained within the Good Governance Framework.

2. ACTION PLAN

- 2.1 An updated Action Plan is attached to this report as **Appendix A** for Members’ information. There are no other issues identified as “significant”, which need to be brought to Members attention.
- 2.2 In accordance with established practice, this Action Plan is monitored and the updated status is reported to Members of this Committee at each meeting.
- 2.3 There are no new areas of risk arising from the Audit reviews or from the Risk Registers that need to be drawn to Members’ attention.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- Members are requested to:
- (i) note the attached Action Plan and the current position relating to each of the areas that have been identified; and
 - (ii) note the contents of the 2010/11 Annual Governance Statement (to be circulated prior to the meeting), noting that this statement will accompany the annual Statement of Accounts.

PETER MASON
Assistant Director (Resources)

Contact Officer: Alison Taylor

Ext. 7290

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

APPENDIX A

ACTION PLAN – UPDATE JUNE 2011

	<u>CURRENT STATUS AND ACTION REQUIRED</u>	<u>RESPONSIBILITY</u>	<u>TARGET DATE</u>
1.	Community Empowerment Pilots to be developed	Assistant Director (Community Engagement)	<p>The City Councils Community Housing and Health service is taking this forward in its work programme for 2011/12. The learning from the Community Empowerment Pilots is important and will directly inform work with communities over the coming year. Staff who will play a key role in doing this were appointed to 5 new Development Officer posts in the Community Housing and Health service on 25 March 2011. Each officer's work load will include liaising with local communities across the whole Council area and, importantly, will include building capacity and empowering communities. This is intended to link into the requirements and opportunities anticipated in the Localism Bill (due Dec 2011)</p> <p>The same level of capital and revenue support which has previously been available cannot be maintained. Work in both pilot and new areas will need to be adapted accordingly. This however does not mean that some valuable work cannot be maintained and new work carried out. The specific detail of work within each community will vary and be affected by:</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The needs and opportunities in each case</u> - for example, to it's location, current assets and opportunities, issues raised by members and residents and the experience (or not) of local people working together to improve where they live (such as production of community led plans/parish plans). • <u>The resources available, including from the City Council and other key partners.</u> The City is committed working to building and support strong local partnerships and making sure resources are most effectively used. Focusing on communities, this will include, shared work programmes and collaboration across City Council services (local environment, economic development/planning), good communication and joint working with the County Council neighbourhood and community engagement teams, registered housing providers (social landlords), Residents Associations (inc via Community Centres) parish councils(inc via CALC/CPCA), public health professionals and the police. <p>A joint City Council/County Council meeting to discuss locality working was held on 31 March and a collaborative team building day involving City and County Council community and neighbourhood staff teams was held in April/May 2011.</p> <p>It is important to reiterate the role of local ward members in the process and the development of work will be done in</p>
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			close dialogue with them.
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