

**Draft Annual Governance Statement**

**Extract from draft minutes of the Audit Committee – 29 June 2011**

**37. Annual Governance Statement 2010-11 Draft**

The Monitoring Officer, Ian Gibbons, presented the Draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for 2010-11 for the Committee's preliminary comments.

It was noted that the Council was required to prepare and publish an AGS as part of its annual review of the effectiveness of its governance arrangements (para 4, page 115 of the agenda refers), meeting the six principles of good governance adopted in its Code of Corporate Governance.

The draft AGS would be revised in the light of any comments this Committee, or any other body consulted, wished to make and the ongoing review work by the Assurance Group.

The draft AGS would be presented to Cabinet, the Standards Committee and KPMG, External Auditors, with any comments being presented to this Committee at its meeting on 28 September 2011 when the AGS would be presented for final approval.

Members noted that significant progress had been made in the Housing Landlord Service Improvement Plan and questioned whether this needed to remain a significant governance issue. The Committee asked the Assurance Group to keep this under review and to: refer in the AGS to the new requirement to send internal audit reports to Cabinet Members; review the governance arrangements for section 106 agreements; include outstanding harmonisation issues arising from LGR as part of the significance governance issue relating to the Transformation Programme.

**Resolved:**

**To ask the Assurance Group to review and amend the AGS in light of the above comments.**

**To note that the draft AGS will be revised further in the light of ongoing work by the Assurance Group and any comments of the Standards Committee and Cabinet, before being brought back to the Committee for final approval on 28 September 2011.**

## **Extract from draft minutes of the Standards Committee – 20 July 2011**

### **50. Annual Governance Statement**

The Monitoring Officer presented the Draft Annual Governance Statement for 2010-11 for the Committee's preliminary comments.

It was noted that this is a statutory requirement and the content follows guidance from CIPFA and is built around the six principles of good governance.

Following a debate the following changes were suggested:

Paragraph 12 – additional sentence to read: The Constitution Focus Group remains in place to review the constitution in the light of the Localism Bill.

Paragraph 13 – add at end of sentence 'and some of this is delegated to Area Boards'.

Paragraph 61 – 4<sup>th</sup> line delete 'these policies' and replace with 'the Whistleblowing Policy'.

Paragraph 73 – need to add the point that there is an ambition to align scrutiny activities to the business plan.

Paragraph 83 – clarify the definition of 'charter'.

#### **Resolved:**

- 1. To make amendments as detailed above.**
- 2. To note that the draft Annual Governance Statement will be revised in the light the comments made by this Committee and the ongoing review work by the Governance Assurance Group. It will then be considered by Cabinet before being taken back to the Audit Committee for final approval and publication by 30 September 2011.**