

Agenda Item No. 6

Title: **Annual Governance Statement**

Lead Member: **Cllr While – Finance Portfolio Holder**

Reporting officer: **Ian Jamieson – Corporate Director (Chief Finance Officer)**

Purpose

To present the 2008/2009 Annual Governance Statement for approval.

Background

The Annual Governance Statement replaces the Statement on Internal Control and forms part of the statement of accounts. The statement covers all significant corporate systems, processes and controls, spanning the whole range of the authority's activities. In addition to the control environment the statement now covers performance issues. The format is in accordance with best practice as set out in the recent CIPFA/SOLACE guidance.

The review of the governance environment is informed by the work of internal audit, external audit, risk management and the Corporate Director (Chief Finance Officer).

The statement has been reviewed by the Corporate Director (Chief Finance Officer), Corporate Management Team, Chief Executive and Finance Portfolio Holder.

Key Issues

Members review the statement and consider the accuracy and fairness of representation of the governance environment and the significant control issues.

Effect on strategies and codes

These are contained in the statement.

Risk management implications

These are contained in the statement.

Finance and performance implications

These are contained in the statement.

Legal and human rights implications

There are no direct legal or human rights implications.

Next steps

The Annual Governance Statement is passed to the new Wiltshire council to develop an action plan to deal with the significant control issues.

Recommendations

The Annual Governance statement is approved.

Background Papers: Final Accounts Working Papers – Room 33