

Appendix 1

Extract from Minutes of Audit Committee on 18 June 2013

45 Annual Governance Statement 2012/2013 Draft

Ian Gibbons, Service Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer, presented the draft Annual Government Statement for 2012-2013, a required part of the annual review of the effectiveness of the Council's governance arrangements, which would proceed to Cabinet, then Standards Committee, before returning to the Audit Committee for final approval.

The Monitoring Officer took the Committee through the report, highlighting key issues including the following:

- Safeguarding Children and Young People
- Managing significant reductions in Government funding and changes in legislative
- Information Security

The Monitoring Officer particularly highlighted the action plan agreed by the Corporate Leadership Team to strengthen and improve the Council's information governance arrangements. Progress against the plan was being monitored and the Committee would be updated as to whether this should remain as a significant governance issue.

The Leader of the Council and Carolyn Godfrey – Corporate Director, reminded the Committee of the work that had and was currently being undertaken in relation to safeguarding children and young people. The Leader and Corporate Director were pleased to report that Wiltshire were making steady progress to address the issues raised by Ofsted and noted in the Improvement Plan. The strengthened focus on safeguarding by the Lead Member for Children's Services, Portfolio Holder for Safeguarding, the Safeguarding Scrutiny Task Group and the Director of Children's Services had been commended. There was also consensus that good frameworks had been established for example a set of practice standards, a new auditing programme, revised supervision policy and introduction of a model for managing risk.

It was noted that paragraph 15 of the Draft Annual Governance Statement that referred to the Police and Crime Panel should indicate that the Panel was a joint Panel with Swindon Borough Council and should read 'the Wiltshire Police and Crime Panel'.

Resolved:

That the draft Annual Governance Statement would be revised in light of the comments of the Audit Committee, Cabinet, Standards Committee and ongoing review work by the Governance Assurance Group, before final approval by the Audit Committee and publication with the Statement of Accounts in September 2013.

Extract from draft Minutes of Standards Committee on 10 July 2013

26 Draft Annual Governance Statement 2012/13

The Monitoring Officer presented the draft Annual Governance Statement for 2012/13, which was to be presented to Cabinet on 23 July and had been approved in draft form by the Audit Committee on 18 June 2013 . The draft had been sent for consideration to the council's external auditors, KPMG, and final approval would be given at Audit Committee on 4 September 2013.

The Committee considered the relevant ethical governance sections of the Statement, and were informed the document as a whole followed guidance as laid down by CIPFA.

After consideration, it was,

Resolved:

To approve the draft annual governance statement.

Extract from Minutes of Cabinet on 23 July 2013

60 Annual Governance Statement

Cllr Dick Tonge, Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance, Risk, Procurement and Welfare Reform presented a report which asked Cabinet to consider a draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for 2012-13 before final approval was sought from the Audit Committee on 4 September 2013.

Cabinet noted that the Council was required as part of its annual review of the effectiveness of the governance arrangements, to produce an AGS for 2012-13. This would be signed by the Leader of the Council and the Corporate Directors after final approval by the Audit Committee on 4 September 2013. The AGS would form part of the Annual Statement of Accounts for the same period.

The AGS had been considered initially by the Audit Committee at its meeting on 18 June with the resulting minute presented to Cabinet which indicated one minor amendment to the AGS being made. The AGS had also been considered by the Standards Committee at its meeting on 10 July where it had been accepted without any suggested amendment.

Resolved:

a) That having considered the draft Annual Governance Statement, that Cabinet notes and accepts it as presented with no recommended amendments.

b) Note that the draft Annual Governance Statement would be revised in the light of the comment by the Audit Committee and acceptance of it as presented by Cabinet and the Standards Committee and ongoing work by the Governance Assurance Group before final consideration by the Audit Committee on 4 September 2013 and publication by 30 September 2013.

Reason for decision

To prepare the Annual Governance Statement 2012-13 for publication in accordance with the requirements of the Audit and Accounts Regulations 2011.