

**GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE
25 JANUARY 2011**

**ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT PREPARATION
(Director of Corporate Services – Legal)**

1 PURPOSE OF DECISION

- 1.1 This report seeks the nomination of a Member to attend the meeting of the Governance Working Group which formulates the Annual Governance Statement and the AGS Action Plan.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Committee is invited to nominate a Member to attend the meeting of the Governance Working Group which formulates the Annual Governance Statement and resulting Action Plan.**

3 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 3.1 The Borough Solicitor is the author of this report.

Borough Treasurer

- 3.2 There are no financial implications directly arising.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 3.3 Not Required.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 3.4 Not relevant.

4 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 The CIPFA/SOLACE guidance on Governance for Local Authorities which constitutes best practice for the Accounts and Audit Regulations requires the production of an Annual Governance Statement (AGS); a review of the effectiveness of the Council's systems of internal control. The review of the Council's governing arrangements in the Annual Governance Statement leads to the formulation of an Action Plan to address any weaknesses identified.

- 4.2 In determining the arrangements for the preparation of last year's AGS it was considered that it would be helpful to have Member input into the process. Councillor Thompson was nominated by the Committee to attend the meeting of the Governance Working Group which formulated the AGS and the Action Plan.

- 4.3 Member input proved to be beneficial to the process and accordingly it is proposed that the arrangements be repeated for the preparation of this year's AGS.

Background Papers

None.

Contact for Further Information

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