

TO: GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE
27 MARCH 2012

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, for submission to the Committee.**

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Member input has been valuable in previous years and accordingly the Committee is requested to nominate a Member to assist in this year's preparation of the AGS.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 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.
- 5.2 For the past two years a Member of the Committee (Councillor Thompson in both years) has been nominated to attend the meeting of the officer governance working Group which prepares the draft AGS and Action Plan. Member input has been found to be very helpful and accordingly the Committee is requested to nominate a Member to assist in this year's preparation of the AGS.
- 5.3 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.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 Co-author of this report.

Borough Treasurer

6.2 There are no financial implications directly arising.

Equalities Impact Assessment

6.3 Not applicable

Strategic Risk Management Issues

6.4 None.

Other Officers

6.5 None.

7 CONSULTATION

None.

Background Papers

None.

Contact for Further Information

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