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TO: EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & LEARNING
Date: 11 June 2014

**APPROVAL OF THE ADOPTION SERVICE STATEMENT OF PURPOSE 2014 – 2015
AND ADOPTION SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT 2013– 2014
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & LEARNING**

1 PURPOSE OF DECISION

- 1.1 The purpose of the decision is to approve the revised Adoption Agency Statement of Purpose for 2014 – 2015 and the Adoption Service Annual Report 2013 – 2014.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **That the revised Adoption Agency Statement of Purpose 2014 - 2015 [annex 1] and Adoption Agency Annual Report 2013 - 14 [annex 2] is APPROVED.**

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The compilation and annual review of the Statement of Purpose for the Adoption Service is a requirement under Part 1, section 4, of the Local Authority Adoption Service (England) Regulations 2003.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None. It is a statutory requirement that the Statement of Purpose for the Adoption Service is reviewed annually and approved by the Executive Member.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 The Statement of Purpose is in essence an updating of regulation requirements for Bracknell Forest's practice and procedures, with some substantial changes being required following regulations in 2011 and the new Children and Families Act 2014. The overall aim of the changes has been to increase the number of available adoptive families and to reduce the time that children wait to move into permanent homes. The changes encourage 'Fostering to Adopt' placements where prospective adopters can care for children under the fostering regulations until their care plan is finalised; reducing the time taken for the assessment and approval of prospective adopters and setting a target of completing care proceedings within 26 weeks. It is anticipated that all of the proposals in Adoption Agency Statement of Purpose for 2014 – 2015 can be met from within the approved budget and adoption reform grant.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 The relevant legal provisions are contained and addressed within the main body of the policy documents attached to this report.

Borough Treasurer

- 6.2 The Borough Treasurer is satisfied that based on current needs and demand, sufficient resources exist to meet the statement of purpose. However, with the new

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regulations aiming to increase the number of adopters, costs may change over time and will therefore need to be kept under review.

Equality Impact Assessment

- 6.3 Has been undertaken and attached at Annex 3.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.4 The strategic risk identified is that if the service does not complete an annual review of the Statement of Purpose the Council will be in breach of the National Minimum Standards. There are no changes completed or proposed in the content of the service that will constitute a strategic risk.

Other Officers

- 6.5 The Children's Social Care Management Team has considered and endorsed this Statement of Purpose and annual report.

7 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

- 7.1 The relevant staff from the Family Placement service have contributed to the Statement of Purpose. A copy of the Statement of Purpose is also provided to the Ofsted Inspectorate, and it is available on the Council's public website.

7.2 Method of Consultation

The relevant staff from the Family Placement Team have contributed to this Review.

Representations Received

- 7.2 *There have been no representations received.*

Background Papers

The Adoption Agency Statement of Purpose 2014-15 [**annex 1**].

The Adoption Agency Annual Report 2013 – 14 [**annex 2**]

Equality Impact Assessment [**annex 3**].

Contact for further information

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