

# **BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**AUDIT, GOVERNANCE & STANDARDS COMMITTEE 18<sup>th</sup> July 2015**

## **ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT – 2014/15**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Geoff Denaro
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Jayne Pickering, Executive Director Finance and Resources
Wards Affected	None.

### **1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

To seek Members' approval of the draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for signature by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive, for inclusion in the Statement of Accounts 2014/15.

### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **2.1 The Committee is asked to RESOLVE that**

**Subject to any member comments the Annual Governance Statement be recommended for inclusion in the Statement of Accounts.**

### **3. KEY ISSUES**

3.1 Authorities are expected to publish the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for 2014/15 with their Statement of Accounts.

3.2 The CIPFA/SOLACE framework for the Annual Governance Statement requires the AGS to be signed by the most senior Officer (Chief Executive or equivalent) and the most senior member (Leader or equivalent).

3.3 There is an expectation in the guidance that the Head of Internal Audit, or equivalent, will provide a written annual report to those charged with governance timed to support the Annual Governance Statement. The report prepared by the Internal Audit Manager has been included in a separate report within the Agenda.

3.4 The AGS should be as up to date as practicable at the time of publication which will follow the completion of the final accounts audit in August.

#### **Financial Implications**

3.5 There are no specific financial implications.

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### **Legal Implications**

- 3.6 The preparation and publication of an annual governance statement is necessary to meet the statutory requirement set out in Regulation 4(2) of the Accounts and Audit (Amendment)(England) Regulations 2006 to prepare a Statement on Internal Control (SIC) in accordance with 'proper practices'.

### **Service/Operational Implications**

- 3.7 The Annual Governance Statement (AGS) is a statutory document, which provides an overview of the governance arrangements within the Council.
- 3.8. The purpose of the annual governance statement is not just to be 'compliant' but also to provide an accurate representation of the arrangements in place during the year and to highlight those areas where improvement is required.

### **Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 3.9 There are no customer/equalities and diversity implications.

## **4. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 4.1 The Council will not meet the requirements of Regulation 4(2) of the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2006 if it fails to produce an Annual Governance Statement for publication with the Statement of Accounts.

## **5. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 - Annual Governance Statement, 2014/15

## **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 6.1 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government' – CIPFA/SOLACE (Framework and Guidance Note)
- 6.2. The Annual Governance Statement – Rough Guide for Practitioners – The CIPFA Finance Advisory Network

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