

Open Report on behalf of Executive Director Resources and Community Safety

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| Report to: | Audit Committee |
| Date: | 26 September 2011 |
| Subject: | Annual Governance Statement 2011 |

Summary:

At its 11th July 2011 meeting the Committee reviewed and identified some changes to the Annual Governance Statement. These changes have been actioned.

As the Committee charged with Governance we seek formal sign off of the Annual Governance Statement and that it accurately reflects the Councils governance and assurance arrangements.

Recommendation(s):

That the Committee:

1. Approve the Annual Governance Statement 2011.
2. The statement is recommended for signature by the Leader of the Council, Chief Executive and the Executive Director - Resources and Community Safety.

Background

1. The Council has responsibility for conducting, at least annually, a review of the effectiveness of its governance framework, including the system of internal control.
2. Undertaking this review helps us test and gain confidence that the governance framework is operating as intended and that we are:
'doing the right things, in the right way, for the right people, in an open, honest, inclusive and timely manner'
3. A key part of the statement is section 6 - *Governance Issues* (what's important to how we operate). We have set out areas we believe should be included for 2011, namely:-

- Good arrangements in place for delivering Value for Money for Adult Social Care Contracts
 - Adult Social Care personalisation agenda (putting people first)
 - Transition and delivery of our 'core offer' of service delivery for the people of Lincolnshire
 - Working with our Communities
 - Reviewing our governance and assurance arrangements
 - Financial Statements
4. These areas are highlighted because of the need for the Council to be realistic and open about those functions and activities which require, or are likely to require, support (including but not limited to financial support) over the next year in order to ensure that they are working effectively and efficiently. This in turn should ensure that any future problems in those areas are averted or at the very least minimised. They also represent some of the key areas that will help us – perform better, spend less and be more agile as set out in our 'Operational Strategy 2010-2013.'
5. The full statement can be found in Appendix A.
6. The statement has been developed by the officer Governance Group and consultation with Executive Directors.

Conclusion

The Council has a strong control environment which is demonstrated by the realistic and open assessment of its functions and activities.

Officers have identified a number of governance issues to be included in the Annual Governance Statement. The Audit Committee is asked to independently review and approve the statement for 'realism'.

Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

Not applicable

Appendices

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| These are listed below and attached at the back of the report | |
| Appendix A | Annual Governance Statement 2011 |

Background Papers

The following background papers as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 were relied upon in the writing of this report.

| Document title | Where the document can be viewed |
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| Draft Annual Governance Statement 2011 | Audit Committee 11 July 2011 |

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