

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

07 April 2009

Report of the Director of Finance

Part 1- Public

Delegated

1 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2008/09

This report presents the Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31 March 2009 for Members consideration and approval. The Statement, once approved is to be signed by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive for inclusion in the 2008/09 Statement of Accounts.

1.1 Annual Governance Statement

- 1.1.1 Local authorities are required to prepare and adopt a Code of Corporate Governance. A Code of Corporate Governance was adopted by the Council in September 2003 and was further updated and approved by Members in February 2008.
- 1.1.2 An Annual Governance Statement is required to be prepared and incorporated within the Council's Statement of Accounts each year. The purpose of the Governance Statement and supporting information is to demonstrate compliance with the Code.
- 1.1.3 The Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31 March 2009 is attached at **[Annex 1]**. The Statement **[Annex 1]** has been prepared by way of a self assessment questionnaire and supporting evidence **[Annex 2]**. The Annual Governance Statement is required to be signed by both the most senior officer and Member of the Council following its consideration and endorsement by this Committee.

1.2 Legal Implications

- 1.2.1 There is a statutory requirement to prepare an Annual Governance Statement.

1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.3.1 None.

1.4 Risk Assessment

- 1.4.1 The Annual Governance Statement forms part of the Council's Statement of Accounts which is a statutory document. Therefore, failure to prepare and endorse the Statement would lead to qualification of the Accounts and, in turn, adversely affect our Use of Resources rating.

1.5 Recommendations

1.5.1 The Committee is requested to:

- 1) Consider the Annual Governance Statement and propose any alterations deemed appropriate.
- 2) Recommend its adoption to the General Purposes Committee for inclusion in the 2008/09 Statement of Accounts.

Background papers:

Code of Corporate Governance
Strategies and Policies held by the Council

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