

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

10 April 2012

Report of the Director of Finance

Part 1- Public

Delegated

1 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2011/12

This report presents the Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31 March 2012 for Members' consideration and approval. The Statement, once approved is to be signed by both the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive to accompany the Statement of Accounts 2011/12.

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 subsequently updated and approved by Members in February 2008.
- 1.1.2 The Statement will accompany the Statement of Accounts, but is not part of the Accounts. The purpose of the Annual Governance Statement is to assess and demonstrate that there is a sound system of corporate governance throughout the organisation. Governing is about how local government bodies ensure they are doing the right things, in the right way, for the right people in a timely, inclusive, open, honest and accountable manner.
- 1.1.3 The Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31 March 2012 is attached at **[Annex 1]**. The Statement has been prepared by way of a self assessment questionnaire and supporting evidence **[Annex 2]**. The Statement is to be signed by both the most senior Member and officer of the Council following its consideration and approval by this Committee.

1.2 Legal Implications

- 1.2.1 The preparation and approval of this Statement is a statutory requirement.

1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.3.1 None.

1.4 Risk Assessment

1.4.1 The preparation and approval of this Statement is a statutory requirement and, therefore, failure to prepare and approve the Statement could adversely affect the Council.

1.5 Equality Impact Assessment

1.5.1 See 'Screening for equality impacts' table at end of report

1.6 Recommendations

1.6.1 The Committee is requested to:

- 1) Consider the Annual Governance Statement 2011/12 and make such recommendations as it considers appropriate.
- 2) Recommend adoption of the approved Statement to the General Purposes Committee to accompany the Statement of Accounts 2011/12.

Background papers:

Nil

contact: Neil Lawley
Paul Worden

Sharon Shelton
Director of Finance

Screening for equality impacts:		
Question	Answer	Explanation of impacts
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community?	No	See below.
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality?	Yes	The purpose of the Annual Governance Statement is to assess and demonstrate that there is a sound system of corporate governance throughout the organisation. Governing is about how local government bodies ensure they are doing the right things, in the right way, for the right people in a timely, inclusive, open, honest and accountable manner.
c. What steps are you taking to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		Not applicable.

In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above.