

# TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

## GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

28 June 2010

### Report of the Director of Finance

#### Part 1- Public

#### Delegated

#### **1 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2009/10**

**The Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31 March 2010 is provisionally included with the 2009/10 Statement of Accounts as recommended by the Audit Committee at its meeting on 13 April. This report seeks formal endorsement for its inclusion.**

#### **1.1 Introduction**

- 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.

#### **1.2 Audit Committee**

- 1.2.1 The Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31 March 2010 was presented to the Audit Committee at its meeting on 13 April 2010.
- 1.2.2 The Statement was prepared by way of a self assessment questionnaire and supporting evidence, and is required to be signed by both the most senior officer and Member of the Council following its consideration by Members.
- 1.2.3 Members of the Audit Committee gave consideration to the Statement at their meeting on 13 April, and recommended it for adoption to the General Purposes Committee for inclusion in the 2009/10 Statement of Accounts. A copy of the Statement is provisionally included with the Accounts elsewhere on this agenda.

#### **1.3 Legal Implications**

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

**1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations**

1.4.1 None.

**1.5 Risk Assessment**

1.5.1 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.

**1.6 Recommendations**

1.6.1 Members are **RECOMMENDED** to formally endorse the inclusion of the Statement within the draft Accounts for 2009/10 elsewhere on this agenda.

Background papers:

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Nil

Sharon Shelton  
Director of Finance