

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE

20 June 2016

Report of the Management Team

Part 1- Public

Delegated

1 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2015/16

This report presents the Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31 March 2016 for Members' consideration and approval. The Annual Governance Statement once approved is to be signed by both the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive and is to accompany the Statement of Accounts 2015/16.

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 Local authorities are required to prepare and adopt a Code of Corporate Governance. The current Code of Corporate Governance was adopted by the Council in June 2015 and this has been used for the purposes of the Annual Governance Statement.
- 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 2016 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 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 the Annual Governance 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 the Annual Governance 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 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

1.6 Recommendations

- 1.6.1 Members are asked to consider and subject to any amendments required, approve the Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31 March 2016.

Background papers:

contact: Neil Lawley
Paul Worden

Nil

Julie Beilby
Chief Executive

Sharon Shelton
Director of Finance and Transformation