

**STATEMENT OF GOVERNANCE AND INTERNAL CONTROL**

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**1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1. This report advises that the Council' Governance Group has reviewed the content of the local code of corporate governance to reflect the governance position within the Council for 2014/15.
- 1.2. The review allows the Council to include a statement of governance and internal control in the Annual Accounts for 2104/15.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Performance, Review and Scrutiny Committee approve the statement of governance and internal control for inclusion in the Annual Accounts for 2014/15;

**20 AUGUST 2015**

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## **STATEMENT OF GOVERNANCE AND INTERNAL CONTROL**

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### **1. INTRODUCTION**

This report advises that the Council's Governance Group has reviewed the content of the local code of corporate governance to reflect the governance position within the Council for 2014/15.

### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 The Performance, Review and Scrutiny Committee approve the statement of governance and internal control for inclusion in the Annual Accounts for 2014/15;

### **3. DETAIL**

3.1 CIPFA and SOLACE published a revised Framework for 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government' in 2007. The Framework defines the principles that underpins the governance of local authorities and provides a structure to assist authorities with their own approach to governance. The Framework took the six core principles, from the 'Good Governance Standard for Public Services' (2004), and adapted these principles for local government, identifying eighteen supporting principles.

3.2 The Council's Governance Group, chaired by the Executive Director of Customer Services as Monitoring Officer, has responsibility for the preparation of the Code of Corporate Governance along with an Action Plan which identifies areas within the Council where work to improve the governance arrangements within the Council is being undertaken or is necessary.

The Governance Group includes:

- Head of Strategic Finance (s95 Officer);
- Head of Improvement & HR;
- Head of Governance and Law;
- Governance and Risk Manager;
- Chief Internal Auditor.

3.3 The six core principles contained in the local code are;

Focussing on the purpose of the authority and on outcomes for the community and creating and implementing a vision for the local area.

Members & Officers working together to achieve a common purpose with clearly defined functions and roles

Promoting values for the authority and demonstrating the value of good governance through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour.

Taking informed and transparent decisions which are subject to effective scrutiny and managing risk

Developing the capacity and capabilities of members and officers to be effective

Engaging with local people and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability

3.4 The review of the effectiveness of the system of governance and internal control is informed by the:

- Work of Officers within the Council;
- Work of External and Internal Audit;
- External review and inspection reports;
- Recommendations from the Audit Committee and
- Recommendations from the Performance, Review and Scrutiny Committee.

3.5 Following the review of the Council's code and the action plan for 14/15, the Governance Group updated the Council's code and prepared an action plan for 15/16 along with a draft statement of governance and internal control for 14/15 that were considered by the Strategic Management Team (SMT) on 8 June and the Audit Committee on 19 June.

3.6 All comments from the SMT and the Audit Committee have been considered and appropriate amendments have been made to Council's code and the action plan.

3.7 Following this discussion has taken place with Audit Scotland regarding the final content of the statement of governance and internal control. The attached statement has been updated accordingly and can be included in the Annual Accounts for 2014/15.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

This review of the content of the local code of corporate governance gives assurance about the robustness of the Council's governance arrangements.

#### **5. IMPLICATIONS**

**POLICY** In line with recommended practice

**FINANCIAL** None

**HR** None

**LEGAL** Monitoring Officer statutory role, remit includes governance

**EQUALITIES** None

**RISKS** None

**CUSTOMER SERVICE** None

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Appendices

Appendix 1 - statement of governance and internal control 14/15