



REPORT of DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES

**to
AUDIT COMMITTEE
22 JUNE 2017**

DRAFT ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To present the draft Annual Governance Statement for Member approval.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) that the draft Annual Governance Statement 2016 / 17, attached at **APPENDIX 1** be approved;
- (ii) that the Annual Governance Statement 2016 / 17 be certified by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 The Accounts & Audit (England) Regulations 2015 requires the Council to be responsible for ensuring that financial management is adequate and effective and that the Council has a sound system of internal control which facilitates the effective exercise of its functions and which includes arrangements for the management of risk. The regulations further require the Council to conduct a review at least once in a year of the effectiveness of its system of internal control, the findings of which must be considered by Members meeting as a whole or by Committee, and that following the review the Council must approve an annual governance statement, prepared in accordance with proper practices in relation to internal control.
- 3.2 The principal purpose of the Annual Government Statement (AGS) is to provide assurance that the Council's governance framework is adequate and effective. The AGS should demonstrate the extent to which the Council complies with its own code of corporate governance on an annual basis, including how the effectiveness of the governance arrangements have been monitored and an outline of actions taken or proposed to deal with any significant governance issues.
- 3.3 The AGS for 2016 / 17 is attached as **APPENDIX 1**
- 3.4 It should be noted that the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) / Solace has recently issued a revised and updated 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework', which is intended to be used as best

practice for developing and maintaining a locally adopted code of governance and to assist local authorities in reviewing the effectiveness of their governance arrangements.

4. CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 The AGS for 2016 / 17 reflects on governance issues identified as a result of the review of arrangements and by the work of external and internal audit and other agencies, and includes reference to processes currently in place and operating successfully to mitigate the risks associated with those weaknesses.

5. IMPACT ON CORPORATE GOALS

- 5.1 The report links to the Maldon District Council goal of ‘Delivering good quality, cost effective and valued services’.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – None.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – None.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – None.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – None.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – None.
- (vi) **Impact on the Environment** – None.

Background papers: None.

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