
Annual Governance Statement - Statement in Support by the Section 151 Officer – Summary Report

Committee considering report:	Governance and Ethics Committee on 21 August 2017
Portfolio Member:	Councillor Anthony Chadley
Date Portfolio Member agreed report:	3 August 2017
Report Author:	Andy Walker
Forward Plan Ref:	GE3253

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide evidence and independent verification of governance matters which may impact on the Annual Governance Statement from the viewpoint of the Section 151 Officer.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 To note the report.

3. Implications

- 3.1 **Financial:** No financial implication associated with this report.
- 3.2 **Policy:** Established as part of CIPFA guidance and reporting arrangements adopted by Council in connection with the Annual Governance Statement.
- 3.3 **Personnel:** N/A
- 3.4 **Legal:** In accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000 and the Local Government and Housing Act 1985 together with any amendments thereto. In addition the Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 is applicable.
- 3.5 **Risk Management:** Insofar as is possible any risks have been assessed in accordance with the Risk Strategy.
- 3.6 **Property:** N/A
- 3.7 **Other:**

4. Other options considered

- 4.1 None.

Executive Summary

5. Introduction

5.1 As part of the Annual Governance Statement, CIPFA guidance recommends that the Section 151 Officer provides "a key source of assurance that the Council's systems and procedures of internal control which are in operation are effective, efficient and being complied with". The Chief Financial Officer/ s151 Officer is to ensure that all parts of the Council act in accordance with the budgetary and policy requirements in connection with the setting of the budget and financial administration standards within the Council.

6. Proposals

6.1 The definitive Statement on the Role of the Finance Director in Local Government is set out in a CIPFA publication of 2003. This identifies 5 key roles:

- Maintaining strong financial management underpinned by effective financial controls;
- Contributing to corporate management and leadership;
- Supporting and advising democratically elected representatives;
- Supporting and advising officers in their operational roles; and
- Leading and managing an effective and responsive financial service.

6.2 The s151 Officer is required to report to all the local authority's Members, in consultation with the Head of Paid Service and the Monitoring Officer if there is, or there is likely to be, unlawful expenditure or an unbalanced budget. Such a report known as a Section 114 report derives from the Local Government Finance Act 1998 as updated by the 2000 Act and Members of the Council are required to have regard to the s151 Officer's advice. Not to do so would be a breach of the Code of Conduct for Members.

7. Equalities Impact Assessment Outcomes

7.1 This item is not relevant to equality.

8. Conclusion

8.1 Overall it is the s151 Officer's assessment that all parts of the Council acts in accordance with the budgetary and policy requirements in connection with the setting of the budget and meets financial administration standards as set out in legislation. There have been no formal reports required by the s151 Officer to Council under the relevant legislation. The report is to be noted.

9. Appendices

9.1 Appendix A - Supporting Information