

## SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Report of:** Executive Director – Place (S151)  
**To:** Governance and Audit Committee – 25 June 2015  
**(Author:** Colin Wyatt – Senior Finance Analyst)  
**Subject:** Draft Annual Governance Statement 2014/15  
**Purpose:** To seek approval for the Annual Governance Statement prior to submission to audit.

### **Recommendation:**

- 1) That the Committee approves the Annual Governance Statement.

### **1.0 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 Under the Council's constitution this committee is responsible for overseeing the Council's work around corporate governance. Part of that remit covers the approval of the Annual Governance Statement.
- 1.2 Councils have a responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of their governance arrangements, with the review informing the Annual Governance Statement. The review of effectiveness is informed by the work of the executive managers within the authority who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the governance environment, the Head of Audit and Risk Management's annual report (which is included separately to this Committee), and also by comments made by the external auditors and other review agencies and inspectorates.
- 1.3 The Annual Governance Statement explains how South Holland District Council has complied with the code and also meets the requirements of regulation 4(2) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 as amended by the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2011 in relation to the publication of a statement on internal control.
- 1.4 Earlier on the agenda the committee received the Internal Audit Annual Report from the Head of Audit and Risk Management. This commented on the effectiveness of the Council's arrangements for governance, risk management and control arrangements. A Senior Management review of the Internal Audit Annual Report identified no significant issues that would need to be included in the Council's Annual Governance Statement.
- 1.5 Management team have regularly reviewed governance arrangements throughout the year, including risk management arrangements, service manager assurance statements, as well as finance reports. The Annual Governance Statement draws on this work as well as the work of auditors.
- 1.6 Committee members are requested to review the draft Annual Governance Statement (Appendix A), to ensure that it reflects the reports they have considered over the past year, and that it supports their general understanding of the authority's governance arrangements.

1.7 Once approved by the committee, the statement will be presented to the Leader and Chief Executive for formal sign off and submission to external audit, along with the Statement of Accounts.

## 2.0 **OPTIONS**

2.1 To approve the Annual Governance Statement.

2.2 To make changes to the Annual Governance Statement.

2.3 To do nothing.

## 3.0 **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

3.1 To meet corporate governance best practice and statutory reporting requirements.

## 4.0 **EXPECTED BENEFITS**

4.1 To meet corporate governance best practice and statutory reporting requirements.

## 5.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

### 5.1 **Carbon Footprint / Environmental Issues**

5.1.1 It is the opinion of the report author that there are no implications.

### 5.2 **Constitution & Legal**

5.2.1 Compliance with Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011.

### 5.3 **Contracts**

5.3.1 It is the opinion of the report author that there are no implications.

### 5.4 **Corporate Priorities**

5.4.1 It is the opinion of the report author that there are no implications.

### 5.5 **Crime and Disorder**

5.5.1 It is the opinion of the report author that there are no implications.

### 5.6 **Equality and Diversity / Human Rights**

5.6.1 It is the opinion of the report author that there are no implications.

### 5.7 **Financial**

5.7.1 It is the opinion of the report author that there are no implications.

### 5.8 **Health & Wellbeing**

5.8.1 It is the opinion of the report author that there are no implications.

**5.9 Risk Management**

5.9.1 Risks are included in the Annual Governance Statement.

**5.10 Staffing**

5.10.1 It is the opinion of the report author that there are no implications.

**5.11 Stakeholders / Consultation / Timescales**

5.11.1 It is the opinion of the report author that there are no implications.

**6.0 WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED**

6.1 No wards and communities are affected.

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Background papers: - None

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**Lead Contact Officer**

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**Key Decision:** No

**Exempt Decision:** No

**Appendices attached to this report:**

Appendix A – Draft Annual Governance Statement 2014-15