

REPORT TO: Business Efficiency Board

DATE: 27 September 2017

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community & Resources

SUBJECT: Draft Annual Governance Statement - 2016/17

PORTFOLIO: Resources

WARD(S): Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

The draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for 2016/17 was presented at the meeting of the Business Efficiency Board on 7 June 2017.

The Board resolved that the document accurately reflected the Council's governance arrangements. The Board also resolved to approve the draft AGS subject to the inclusion of an additional significant governance issue. That issue related to the need for the Council to maintain a robust IT governance framework in response to the ever increasing frequency and sophistication of cyber-attacks.

This report provides an updated version of the AGS with the inclusion of the additional governance issue requested by the Board.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Board is asked to review and approve the revised version of the Annual Governance Statement for 2016/17.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The AGS for 2016/17 is attached as a separate appendix. The document has been updated to include the additional governance issue requested by the Board. No other amendments have been made to the version presented to the Board in June.

4.0 POLICY, FINANCIAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The powers and duties of the Business Efficiency Board include responsibility for considering the Council's corporate governance arrangements and agreeing necessary actions to ensure compliance with best practice. The AGS provides a commitment to address the governance challenges identified by the Council.

4.2 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report, although the AGS makes reference to the key financial challenges faced by the Council.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

5.1 Children and Young People in Halton

Good governance leads to good management, good performance and good stewardship of public money. It therefore enables the Council to implement its vision in accordance with its values and to engage effectively with its citizens and service users and ensure good outcomes for them.

5.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

See 5.1 above

5.3 A Healthy Halton

See 5.1 above

5.4 A Safer Halton

See 5.1 above

5.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

See 5.1 above

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

6.1 The AGS provides assurance that the Council has a sound system of risk management, control and governance. The document provides a public statement of how the Council directs and controls its functions and relates to its community.

7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

7.1 The Council has to have regard to the elimination of unlawful discrimination and harassment and the promotion of equality under the Equalities Act 2010 and related statutes. Proper governance arrangements will ensure that equality and diversity issues are appropriately addressed.

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact
CIPFA / SOLACE – Delivering good governance in Local Government: Framework (2016)	Kingsway House, Widnes	Merv Murphy
CIPFA / SOLACE - Delivering good governance in Local Government: Guidance note for English authorities (2016)		