

**Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee
14 April 2014**

**Report by the
Director of Finance & Assets/
S.151 Officer and Acting Monitoring
Officer/Secretary and Deputy Chief
Officer**

DRAFT ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2013-14

REPORT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This paper sets out a draft Annual Governance Statement (AGS) in respect to 2013/14, provided at Appendix 1.

Given the content of the Statement, it is desirable that Members should continue to specifically review it separate from the Annual Accounts, although the AGS will form part of the Annual Accounts once approved in September 2014.

It is also desirable that Members receive this report in advance of the draft Annual Accounts at the June 2014 Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Committee is asked to consider the Annual Governance Statement for 2013/14.

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

2. The CIPFA/SOLACE good governance framework brought together a number of governance principles and requirements, including replacing the previous Statement of Internal Control (SIC) with a new Annual Governance Statement from 2007/08.
3. Members are aware of the six key principles of good governance as laid down in the framework:
 - (i) Focusing on the purpose of the Authority and on outcomes for the community and creating and implementing a vision for the local area.
 - (ii) Members and officers working together to achieve a common purpose with clearly defined functions and roles.
 - (iii) Promoting values for the Authority and demonstrating the values of good governance through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour.
 - (iv) Taking informed and transparent decisions which are subject to effective scrutiny and managing risk.
 - (v) Developing the capacity and capability of members and officers to be effective.
 - (vi) Engaging with local people and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability.
4. In essence the AGS is the formal Statement (signed by the Chairperson of the Humberside Fire Authority, the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive and the Statutory Officers) that recognises, records and publishes the governance arrangements of the Humberside Fire Authority in line with the CIPFA/SOLACE good governance framework.
5. There is no model AGS, but rather the Guidance sets out best practice in developing an AGS. A number of Hyperlinks have been added to the document, enabling access to more detailed information. The approved AGS will be published on the HFRS Website.

STRATEGIC PLAN COMPATIBILITY

6. This report links with governance, which is an enabler of the Strategic Plan 2014/17.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCES/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

7. None arising directly.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8. This report and attachments ensures that the Fire Authority complies with regulation 4(2) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 as amended 2006 and 2011.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT/HR IMPLICATIONS

9. None arising directly.

CORPORATE RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

10. There are no direct corporate risk management implications arising from this report. The report forms part of the governance arrangements of the Authority.

HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11. None arising directly.

COMMUNICATION ACTIONS ARISING

12. None arising directly.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

13. Consultation in producing the AGS has taken place within CMT.

BACKGROUND PAPERS AVAILABLE FOR ACCESS

14. Appendix 1 - Draft Annual Governance Statement 2013/14.
CIPFA/SOLACE – Delivering Good Governance in Local Government – Framework and Guidance Note for English Authorities.

RECOMMENDATIONS RESTATED

15. The Committee is asked to consider the Annual Governance Statement for 2013/14.

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