



## AUDIT COMMITTEE

27 September 2016

**Subject Heading:**

Annual Governance Statement

**CMT Lead**

Jane West, Managing Director oneSource

**Report Author and contact details:**

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**Policy context:**

To note the contents of the final version of the 2015/16 Annual Governance Statement.

**Financial summary:**

N/A

**The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives**

Havering will be clean and its environment will be cared for	X
People will be safe, in their homes and in the community	X
Residents will be proud to live in Havering	X

**SUMMARY**

The draft Annual Governance Statement was agreed at the 30<sup>th</sup> June Audit Committee.

The final Annual Governance Statement has now been signed off by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

To note the contents of the final 2015/16 Annual Governance Statement.

**REPORT DETAIL**

A final version of the AGS signed by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive is attached as appendix 1.

**IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

**Financial implications and risks:**

There are no financial implications arising directly. The risk relating to incorporating best practice guidance into current governance arrangements is an increased expectation from stakeholders that is not delivered through the actions of the Council. However, this risk is unlikely to be triggered as the Council is committed to openness and transparency. The risks of not reviewing the Council's arrangements against best practice is that it may be viewed as not being open and transparent and the External Auditor assessing corporate governance adversely. Failure to produce a robust AGS could result in adverse comments from the Council's External Auditors.

**Legal implications and risks:**

The Authority is statutorily obliged to conduct an annual review into the effectiveness of its systems of internal control prepared in accordance with proper practices. The Annual Governance Statement complies with that requirement and therefore there are minimal risks in ensuring that the Statement is progressed as per the recommendations.

**Human Resources implications and risks:**

None arising directly from this report.

**Equalities implications and risks:**

None arising directly from this report. Equalities is a key factors to consider in the Council's governance arrangements and any changes to the Code of Governance or other related policies and procedures are assessed to ensure the impact is appropriately identified.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**