

**REPORT TO:** CABINET

**DATE:** 21 JULY 2016

**TITLE:** REFERRAL FROM AUDIT AND STANDARDS  
COMMITTEE – ANNUAL GOVERNANCE  
STATEMENT 2015/16

**PORTFOLIO HOLDER:** COUNCILLOR MIKE DANVERS

**LEAD OFFICERS:** SIMON FREEMAN, HEAD OF FINANCE (01279)  
446228

BRIAN KEANE, HEAD OF GOVERNANCE (01279)  
446037

**This is not a Key Decision  
Call-in Procedures may apply  
This decision will affect no ward specifically.**

**RECOMMENDED** that Cabinet approves the Annual Governance Statement for 2015-16.

#### **REASON FOR DECISION**

- A** The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011 require the Council to conduct, at least annually, a review of the effectiveness of its system of internal control and to approve an Annual Governance Statement which is required to accompany the Council's Statement of Accounts.
- B** The Audit and Standards Committee considered the draft Annual Governance Statement for 2015-16 and has recommended that Cabinet approve it.

#### **BACKGROUND**

1. At its meeting on 22 June 2015, the Audit and Standards Committee received a report on the Annual Governance Statement 2015/16 and reviewed the draft statement. The original report that was considered by the Committee is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
2. The Committee has asked that the Cabinet approve the Annual Governance Statement 2015/16.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

Implications of the recommended decision are outlined in the 'Implications' section of the original report, which is attached as Appendix 1.

## **APPENDICES**

**Appendix 1** – Original report to the Audit and Standards Committee, 'Annual Governance Statement 2015-16', incorporating:

Appendix 1A – Draft Annual Governance Statement 2015-16

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

All original reports to the Audit and Standards Committee can be viewed from <http://moderngov.harlow.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=120&MId=783&Ver=4>