

Report to: Cabinet on the 18 June
From: Director of Finance
Subject: **Statement of Assurance and Internal Control 2006-07**

Summary: This report confirms that the overall arrangements in the Authority for corporate governance, and operational and financial control, were effective during 2006-07. A Statement of Assurance and Internal Control is therefore recommended to the Deputy Leader (as delegated representative for the Leader) and Chief Executive, for signature and inclusion within the Authority's 2006-07 accounts.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 require that a Statement of Assurance and Internal Control, signed by the Chief Executive and the Leader (or his delegated representative), is included within the Authority's 2006-07 final accounts. The Statement confirms that, during that year, effective corporate governance arrangements and internal controls were in place, both in terms of business and financial risks. It also shows areas where controls need to be strengthened and where action is being taken.
- 1.2 The attached pack provides details of directorate's statements of internal control, a statement of internal financial control and independent assessments by the Head of Audit and Risk, External Auditors and external inspection agencies.

2. CONCLUSIONS

- 2.1 The arrangements in place to ensure effective corporate governance and control functioned well during 2006-07. Where risks have been appropriately identified, controls have been or will be put in place during 2007-08.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To note that the responsibility for signing the Statement of Assurance and Internal Control has been delegated to the Deputy Leader in the absence of the Leader and to recommend the Statement to you for inclusion in the Authority's accounts for 2006-07.

Lynda McMullan
Director of Finance
31 May 2007