

By: Cabinet Member for Finance - Nick Chard
Director of Finance - Lynda McMullan
Head of Audit and Risk - Janet Dawson

To: Cabinet – 16 June 2008

Subject: **ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT - DRAFT**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary To present for discussion, the Draft Annual Governance Statement.

INTRODUCTION

1. This report contains the Draft Annual Governance Statement for discussion.

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

2. Kent County Council is required to prepare an Annual Governance Statement (AGS) with effect from 2007/08. The requirement was introduced in the Good Governance Framework, CIPFA SOLACE 2007, which sets out six principles of corporate governance underpinned by a number of supporting principles and specific requirements.
3. The AGS should include an evidence-based overview of how the Authority has adopted the principles of the Framework and adheres to its requirements.
4. The statement should also give an overall statement on the internal control environment throughout the Authority for the year. The statement must be included in the Authority's final accounts.

NEXT STEPS

5. The Director of Finance will formally submit the AGS, along with the supporting evidence, to the Chief Executive and Lead Member recommending that they sign the statement for inclusion in the final accounts. This will be completed prior to the full cabinet meeting on 16 June.
6. The AGS will then also be presented to the Governance and Audit Committee on 30 June.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

7. Full details of the evidence base include the following;
- Head of Internal Audit annual opinion (summary of internal audit assurance work for 2007/2008)
 - Managing Directors' assurance statements on Risk, Governance and Internal Control
 - Detailed list of risk and governance arrangements in place and operating in the Council throughout the year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (a) That the help and support provided by officers during this process be acknowledged.
- (b) Members are asked to NOTE and provide COMMENT on the AGS.

Janet Dawson
Head of Audit and Risk
Ext 4614