

ANGUS COUNCIL

SCRUTINY AND AUDIT COMMITTEE – 24 JUNE 2014

**CORPORATE GOVERNANCE – ANNUAL REVIEW AND
DRAFT ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2014**

REPORT BY RICHARD STIFF, CHIEF EXECUTIVE

ABSTRACT

This report advises of the outcome of the Chief Executive's annual review of compliance with the council's Local Code of Corporate Governance and presents the draft Annual Governance Statement for consideration.

1. RECOMMENDATION

The Committee:

- (i) consider the terms of the draft [Annual Governance Statement \(Appendix 1\)](#);
- (ii) note this will be signed by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive and will be included as part of the council's Annual Report and Accounts for submission to the Controller of Audit.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN/SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT/COPORATE PLAN

This report supports services in the delivery of all local outcomes contained within the Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2016.

3. BACKGROUND

The council adopted a Local Code of Corporate Governance in 2002. The Code was updated in 2008 and has been reviewed on an annual basis. The Code is based on the CIPFA/SOLACE framework document, Delivering Good Governance in Local Government.

The Code outlines the council's commitment to the principles of good governance and how it seeks to achieve compliance with these principles.

The Chief Executive is responsible for providing assurances annually to elected members that the council's approach to corporate governance is both appropriate and effective in practice, and these assurances are provided in the form of the annual governance statement.

The assurances provided by the Chief Executive are informed by:

- The work of the Corporate Governance Officers Group who, on behalf of the Chief Executive, conduct an annual self-assessment of compliance with the local code.
- Assurances from directors in relation to their corporate governance and internal financial control arrangement
- Assurances from the Chief Financial Officer (S95 Officer) and Monitoring Officer
- The Audit Manager's annual report and opinion on governance, risk and internal control

4. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REVIEW OF COMPLIANCE 2013/14

The overall conclusion to the review is that during 2013/14 the council demonstrated that the governance arrangements and framework within which the council operates are sound and operating effectively and that the council is generally compliant with the requirements of the Local Code of Corporate Governance.

There are a number of governance improvement areas which require to be delivered in 2014-15, some of which have been carried forward from the 2013-14. The improvement areas are:-

- Provide corporate governance and risk training for officers and embedding the new risk management strategy
- Testing and validation of business continuity plans
- Delivery of the information governance plans
- Reviewing the project and programme management arrangements for the council in terms of the internal audit report issued in 2012-13
- Improving compliance with Equalities legislation
- Reviewing grading framework for chief officer posts below Executive Director level
- Establishing reporting arrangements for complaints

Now that the high level management structure is largely complete, the Local Code and our internal governance arrangements will be reviewed to ensure they reflect the way the council does business

5. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

The Annual Governance Statement, which requires to be signed by the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive is attached as Appendix 1.

The statement is currently draft as the final statement requires to reflect the governance arrangements of the 'group' which includes for the year to 31 March 2014, Tayside Valuation Board and Tayside Contracts. These assurances had not yet been received at the time of writing this report and therefore the draft assurances are shown in the annual governance statement may be subject to change.

The final annual governance statement will be included in the annual report and accounts for submission to the Controller of Audit.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications associated with the terms of this report.

7. CONSULTATION

The Strategic Directors of Communities, People and Resources, the Head of Finance and Head of Law and Administration have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

**RICHARD STIFF
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

NOTE: No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

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Appendices
Draft Annual Governance Statement 2013-14