

AGENDA ITEM 7

REPORT TO THE TEES VALLEY COMBINED AUTHORITY CABINET

29TH SEPTEMBER 2017

REPORT OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR AND FINANCE DIRECTOR

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2016/17

SUMMARY

This report presents to Cabinet the Authority's draft Annual Governance Statement for 2016/17.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Tees Valley Combined Authority Cabinet approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2016/17.

DETAIL

1. The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require all authorities in England to conduct a review at least once a year of the effectiveness of its governance framework and produce an Annual Governance Statement to accompany its Statement of Accounts. The deadline for completion of the Statement of Accounts for 2016/17 is 30 June 2017 at which point they are subject to the external audit process.
2. The audited Statement of Accounts and the Annual Governance Statement are therefore presented for approval at Cabinet on the 29 September, 2017.
3. A further requirement of the regulations state that the Statement should be signed by the Managing Director and the Mayor, following approval by Cabinet. A key objective of this signing off process is to secure corporate ownership of the statement's contents.
4. The Annual Governance Statement includes an acknowledgement of responsibility for ensuring that proper arrangements are in place around the governance of its affairs and an indication of the level of assurance that the system provides. The statement also includes a description of the key elements forming the governance framework, a description of the process applied in reviewing the effectiveness of this framework, including the system of internal control, and an outline of the actions taken or, proposed to be taken, to deal with significant governance issues.

5. The Combined Authority's draft Annual Governance Statement for 2016/17 is attached at **Appendix 1**. At this time the Authority has not identified any significant issues that are not being addressed within the Statement.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6. None directly from this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7. The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require all English authorities to prepare an Annual Governance Statement and for it to accompany the Statement of Accounts.

RISK ASSESSMENT

8. None directly from this report

CONSULTATION

9. None.

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