

Report to:	FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE
Item number:	6
Relevant Officer:	Tracy Greenhalgh, Chief Internal Auditor Steve Thompson – Section 151 Officer
Date of Meeting	26 th June 2014

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2013-2014

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider the Annual Governance Statement for 2013/2014.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2013/2014.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To enable the Committee to consider and approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2013/2014.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

None

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is

- Deliver quality services through a professional, well-rewarded and motivated workforce

5.0 Background Information

5.1 Since 2005 the Council has been required to report on the controls operating each financial year and their effectiveness, formerly in a Statement of Internal Control and more recently in an Annual Governance Statement.

5.2 The governance framework comprises the system and processes for the direction and control of the authority and its activities through which it accounts to, engages with and leads the community. The system of internal control is a significant part of that framework and is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to:

- identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Blackpool Council's policies, aims and objectives,
- evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and
- manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

5.3 Following changes to the rules relating to local authority finance the Annual Governance Statement is no longer combined with the draft or audited accounts and is submitted to members as a standalone document.

5.4 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

5.5 List of Appendices:

Appendix 6(a): Annual Governance Statement

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 None

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 None

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 None

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 None

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None

11.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

11.1 None

12.0 Background papers:

12.1 None