

Report to:	Audit Committee
Relevant Officer:	Tracy Greenhalgh – Chief Internal Auditor
Date of Meeting	18 June 2015

Annual Governance Statement 2014/2015

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider the Annual Governance Statement for 2014/2015.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2014/2015.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

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

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

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.
N/a

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 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 in the event that they occur, and
- manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information?

No

List of Appendices:

Appendix 6(a) – Annual Governance Statement 2014-2015

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 All work undertaken by Risk Services is in accordance with relevant legislation. This is particularly important when undertaking fraud investigations where a number of regulations need to be adhered to.

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 N/a

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 N/a

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 All work has been delivered within the agreed budget for Risk Services.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 The primary role of Risk Services is to provide assurance that the Council is effectively managing its risks and provide support to all services in relation to risk and control.

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 N/a

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 All Directors were asked to complete a self-assessment of controls in their Departments in April 2015.

The Annual Governance Statement was approved by the Corporate Leadership Team on the 1 June 2015.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 N/a