

EXETER CITY COUNCIL

**SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - RESOURCES
16 JUNE 2010**

**EXECUTIVE
29 JULY 2010**

**COUNCIL
13 JULY 2010**

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report sets out the proposed Annual Governance Statement to be included within the Council's Annual Statement of Accounts for 2009/10. This Statement also incorporates the Council's Code of Corporate Governance which is published on the Council's website.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 CIPFA/SOLACE has previously issued a framework and guidance on delivering governance in local government. This framework illustrates best practice for developing and maintaining a local code of governance and it recommends that authorities must be able to demonstrate that they are complying with the principles of good governance.
- 2.2 The preparation and publication of an Annual Governance Statement in accordance with CIPFA/SOLACE guidance is required to comply with Regulation 4(2) of the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2006. The Council is required to publish the Annual Governance Statement in the Annual Statement of Accounts for 2009/10.

3. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

- 3.1 A draft Annual Governance Statement for inclusion in the Council's Annual Accounts for 2009/10 is attached to this report.
- 3.2 The Annual Governance Statement should include the following information:
- An acknowledgement of responsibility for ensuring there is a sound system of governance (incorporating the system of internal control)
 - An indication of the level of assurance that the systems and processes that comprise the authority's governance arrangements can provide
 - A brief description of the key elements of the governance framework, including reference to group activities where those activities are significant
 - A brief description of the process that has been applied in maintaining and reviewing the effectiveness of the governance arrangements, including some comment on the role of:
 - the authority
 - the executive
 - the audit committee/overview and scrutiny function/risk management committee/standards committee (as appropriate)
 - internal audit

- other explicit review/assurance mechanisms
- An outline of the actions taken, or proposed, to deal with significant governance issues, including an agreed action plan.

4. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

- 4.1 Scrutiny Committee Resources supports the Annual Governance Statement to be included within the Council's Annual Statement of Accounts for 2009/10; and
- 4.2 Council note and approve the Annual Governance Statement to be included within the Council's Annual Statement of Accounts for 2009/10.

HEAD OF TREASURY SERVICES

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CORPORATE SERVICES DIRECTORATE

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended) Background papers used in compiling this report:

Delivering Good Governance in Local Government – Guidance Note for English Authorities;
CIPFA/SOLACE 2007