

Report

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Report to:	Risk and Audit Scrutiny Forum
Date of Meeting:	19 May 2011
Report by:	Executive Director (Corporate Resources)

Subject:	South Lanarkshire Council Annual Governance Statement for 2010/2011
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ Provide details of the Annual Governance Statement for 2010/2011

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Risk and Audit Scrutiny Forum is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the draft annual Governance Statement at Appendix 2 is endorsed for inclusion in the Council's 2010/2011 Annual Report; and
- (2) that it be noted that the final Statement will be presented to the Executive Committee on 6 July 2011 for approval.

3. Background

3.1. Each year the Council undertakes a comprehensive review of the governance arrangements that are required to support the Council's financial and operational controls. The annual review of governance arrangement provides the Governance Statement which is included within the Council's Annual Accounts.

3.2. During 2010/2011 the Good Governance working group, attended by senior officers from Corporate Resources, the Corporate Improvement Unit and Finance and Information Technology Resources progressed delivery of the Good Governance statement with input from the Good Governance Resource Lead Officer group.

3.3. The annual review for 2010/2011 was undertaken using the Finance Advisory Network (FAN) model as per previous agreement by the Risk and Audit Scrutiny Forum and Executive Committee.

4. Main requirements of the statement

4.1. The statement has to be informed by evidence of the Council's internal controls and areas of risk. Appendix 1 provides the framework of the information collated in support of the 2010/2011 statement.

5. Statement of Governance for 2010/2011

5.1. The Statement of Governance and Internal Control for 2010/2011 is attached at Appendix 2.

5.2. The section entitled **Governance Improvements during 2010/11** provides a progress report on last years' improvement actions.

5.3. The actions for this financial year, 2011/12, are included in the section entitled **Control and Governance Improvements areas for 2011/12**.

6. Good Governance Action Plan

6.1 The 2011/12 action plan is currently being developed and will be monitored and progressed through the Good Governance Group. A progress report will be provided to the Risk and Audit Scrutiny Forum on 29 September 2011.

7. Employee Implications

7.1 Officers from key disciplines will continue to attend the Good Governance Group and Resource Lead Officer Group and will set aside time to review and monitor governance and assurance.

7.2 Officers will be assigned to lead on areas identified as improvement areas.

8. Financial Implications

8.1 There are no financial implications apart from employee time.

9. Other Implications

9.1 The statement will be subject to review by PWC, the Council external auditors, as part of their consideration of the Annual Report.

10. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements

10.1 Executive Directors undertake a formal assessment of Good Governance and sign a statement reflecting the controls within their own Resource. Resource Lead Officers meet to discuss individual Resource statements where required. Guidance was provided by the Good Governance Group on the need to ensure that issues arising from Resource Director's Year-end assessments are internally progressed and monitored.

10.2 This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.

Robert McIlwain
Executive Director (Corporate Resources)

5 May 2011

Link(s) to Council Objectives/Values

◆ All Council Objectives and Values

Previous References

◆ RASF Report 27 April 2010

List of Background Papers

◆ CIPFA/SOLACE Delivering good governance in local government – Guidance note for Scottish Authorities.

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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