

## WALSALL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

**From:** CONSTITUTIONAL SERVICES      **To:**  
**Copy resolutions:** AUDIT COMMITTEE      **Date:** 14 APRIL 2008

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### DRAFT

#### 491/08 **Annual Governance Statement and the Draft Local Code of Governance**

A report was submitted:-

(see annexed)

Vicky Buckley made a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Annual Governance Statement and Local Code of Governance. A copy of the slides used was circulated to Members present at the meeting:-

(see annexed)

Vicky reported that the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) had replaced the Statement on Internal Control (SIC).

At this point in the meeting, the fire alarm went off and the meeting was adjourned at 6.46 p.m. so the building could be evacuated. Following the all clear, the meeting re-convened at 7.02 p.m.

Vicky drew attention to the purpose and contents of the Annual Governance Statement and, referring to the Local Code of Governance, drew attention to the 6 core principles of good governance. She suggested that the Council should test itself against these principles. She indicated that this discussion constituted a training session on the new Annual Governance Statement, together with a refresher on the Statement of Internal Control process and how assurance could be gathered. She continued that the Annual Governance Statement covered wider issues around values, conduct and behaviour more explicitly than the Statement of Internal Control had done and highlighted the fact that CIPFA/SOLACE had published a local code as best practice and the Local Authority was planning to produce its own code which would bring together and publish a governance framework. She reminded the Committee of their role, the areas of assurance that would be expected, the process and timetable for reporting the findings of the review of the effectiveness of internal control and internal audit and for the production

and presentation of the Annual Governance Statement for approval and sign off. She requested the Committee to endorse the Code of Governance. Further briefings would be made available to any new Members and/or those Members who requested it.

Following questions from Members it was,

**Resolved**

That the Committee:-

- (1) Notes the presentation;
- (2) Notes that the Statement of Internal Control has been replaced by the requirement for an Annual Governance Statement (AGS) to be published with the Annual Statement of Accounts;
- (3) Notes and endorses the draft Local Code of Governance attached to the report now submitted (subject to minor final amendment) that will be utilised to assist in the assurance gathering process for the Annual Governance Statement;
- (4) Delegates authority to the Chief Financial Officer to make final minor amendments to the Local Code and disseminate it throughout the organisation, ensuring corporate buy-in and ownership of the Code;
- (5) Notes that the Annual Governance Statement will be produced and presented to Audit Committee at their meeting in June prior to consideration and approval of the Annual Statement of Accounts;
- (6) Agrees to consider the need for further training/briefings on the Annual Governance Statement requirement and the timing of this.