

**PETERBOROUGH**



**CITY COUNCIL**

## Annual Governance Statement – 2015 / 2016



# Annual Governance Statement

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## Scope of Responsibility

Peterborough City Council is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for and used economically, efficiently and effectively. The Council also has a duty under the Local Government Act 1999 to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

In discharging this overall responsibility, the Council is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs, facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, and which includes arrangements for the management of risk.

The Council has approved and adopted a Local Code of Governance, which is consistent with the principles of the CIPFA / SOLACE Framework *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government*. This statement explains how the City Council has complied with the Code and also meets the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 Regulation 4(3) in relation to the publication of an Annual Governance Statement.

## The Purpose of the Governance Framework

The governance framework comprises the systems, processes, culture and values by which the Council is directed and controlled and its activities through which it accounts to, engages with, and leads its communities. It enables the authority to monitor the

achievement of its strategic objectives and to consider whether those objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate services and value for money.

The system of internal control is a significant part of that framework and is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level. It cannot eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives and 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 the Council's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of and potential impact of those risks being realised and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

We have had the governance framework in place from 1 April 2015, and up to the date of approval of the Statement of Accounts.

## The Governance Framework

The Council is a complex organisation with an appropriately comprehensive governance framework. It works in a dynamic environment and keeps its processes under constant review. Our governance framework derives from six core principles identified in the Independent Commission on Good Governance in Public Services 2004 publication entitled *The Good Governance Standard for Public Services*. These principles were adapted for application to local authorities and published in 2007. The six core principles state that good governance means:

- Focusing on the purpose of the Authority and on outcomes for citizens and service users;
- Performing effectively in clearly defined functions and roles;
- Promoting values for the whole organisation and demonstrating good governance through behaviour;
- Taking informed, transparent decisions and managing risk;
- Developing the capacity and capability of the governing body to be effective; and
- Engaging stakeholders and making accountability real.

The following paragraphs summarise the Council's Governance Framework which has been in place for the year ended 31 March 2016 and up to the date of approval of this Statement and the Statement of Accounts.

The key elements of each of these core principles are as follows:

### ***Creating and Implementing a Vision***

Good governance means focusing on the purpose of the Council, on outcomes for the community and creating and implementing a vision for the local area. Through various forums, the Council has developed an overarching vision for the City and a set of strategic priorities and core values to assist in achieving this.

#### The Vision

Members, working with officers, and its partners – whether public, private, voluntary or community – have developed a clear vision of their purpose and intended outcomes for citizens and service users. The Peterborough Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) 2008 –

2021 sets out the vision for the Council (and refreshed in 2010) to ensure it continues to reflect the communities needs and changing circumstances. These are:

- *A bigger and better Peterborough that grows the right way, and through truly sustainable development and growth...*
  - *Improves the quality of life of all its people and communities, and ensure that all communities benefit from growth and the opportunities it brings;*
  - *Creates a truly sustainable Peterborough, the urban centre of a thriving sub-regional community of villages and market towns, a healthy, safe and exciting place to live, work and visit, famous as the environment capital of the UK.*

#### Strategic Priorities

In order to achieve the vision, four priorities have been established and these are then set out in a Single Delivery Plan detailing accountability and resources allocations across the partnership. Providing value for money underpins the four priorities. The four priorities are:

- *Creating the UK's Environment Capital*
- *Creating Strong and Supportive Communities*
- *Delivering Substantial and Truly Sustainable Growth*
- *Creating Opportunities – Tackling Equalities*

**By striving to deliver these priorities, which are reviewed, and refreshed if necessary, the following are the latest expectations:**

- Growth, regeneration and economic development of the city to bring new investment and jobs. Supporting people into work and

off benefits is vital to the city's economy and to the wellbeing of the people concerned;

- Improving educational attainment and skills for all of our children and young people, allowing them to seize the opportunities offered by new jobs and our university provision, thereby keeping their talent and skills in the city;
- Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults;
- Pursuing the Environment Capital agenda to position Peterborough as a leading city in environmental matters, including reducing the carbon footprint;
- Supporting Peterborough's Culture Trust, Vivacity, to continue to deliver arts and culture in the city;
- Keeping our communities safe and cohesive; and
- To achieve the best health and wellbeing for the city.

#### Core Values

Five core values have been established to guide the way we treat our customers, partners and each other, these being:

- *Expertise*: We recognise and value the differences, skills, knowledge and experience of all our colleagues;
- *Trust*: We are honest and open in all our dealings and deliver on our promises;
- *Initiative*: We are proactive and use our creativity to identify and resolve problems;
- *Customer focussed*: We understand and aim to meet our customers diverse needs, treating them fairly and with respect; and

- *Work together / one team*: We work with colleagues and partners to deliver the best services possible.

#### Reviewing Delivery

Our council priorities are reviewed through a variety of means including ongoing analysis of performance information; a review of national and local drivers for change; and consultation with stakeholders, including residents, businesses and partner organisations. Any changes made are cascaded through the organisation to inform and amend departmental delivery and business arrangements.

The Council and neighbouring authorities, and their business, higher / further education and VCS partners have developed a Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) to provide strategic leadership and joint working in areas such as housing, transport infrastructure, employment and enterprise.

Regular revisions are made to the Constitution to ensure continuing improvement and simplification, whilst maintaining appropriate governance checks. The Council continues to develop and refine systems for identifying and evaluating all significant risks, via its Corporate Management Team (CMT).

When the Council works in partnerships, it has a methodology which ensures that there is a common vision underpinning these that is understood and agreed by all partners. These partnerships range from strategic to operational.

A Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) has been established to ensure that resources are aligned to priorities and approved annually, the latest being in March 2016. This 10 year plan is annually refreshed. The budget process incorporates consideration of the allocation of resources against corporate aims, an identification of

any financial risks together with allowing for an annual strategic review to release resources for use elsewhere subject to appropriate efficiency improvements being in place. Monitoring reports are submitted to CMT and Cabinet and issues are referred to other Committees as appropriate.

Value for money underpins the strategic priorities. Through reviews by External Audit, external agencies, Internal Audit, and other internal review teams, the Council constantly seeks ways of ensuring the economical, effective and efficient use of resources, and for securing continuous improvement in the way in which functions are exercised.

The Council has a comprehensive comments, compliments and complaints scheme. This is used to identify areas where service quality is not satisfactory and to take action to improve. A revised complaints scheme was implemented in 2015.

### ***Roles and Responsibilities of Members and Officers***

Good governance means members and officers working together to achieve a common purpose with clearly defined functions and roles. The Council aims to ensure that the roles and responsibilities for governance are defined and allocated so that accountability for decisions made and actions are clear.

- The Council is governed by a Constitution which sets out the main control mechanisms and uses the Cabinet model for decisions. This is made up of 9 Members: - Leader and 8 Cabinet Members. Cabinet business is governed by written procedures and principles contained in the Executive Decisions within the Constitution. Individual Cabinet members receive regular feedback from senior officers within their portfolios on the

progress of objectives. Issues of strategic and corporate importance are referred to Cabinet.

- As well as Cabinet, other Committees are in place to cover the functions of Scrutiny and Regulatory Committees.
  - Scrutiny: These can hold the Cabinet to account by reviewing decisions, undertaking reviews of the Council's functions, and consider any relevant matters affecting the city or its residents. Although they have no decision making powers, they are able to "Call In" and review certain decisions of Cabinet. Until the call-in process is completed the decision cannot be implemented.
  - Regulatory: These consider a variety of non-executive functions which Cabinet, by law, cannot undertake or has been agreed should not be considered by Cabinet, for example, Licensing. They are all cross-party and with the exception of Audit Committee, can include cabinet members.
- An Audit Committee provides assurance to the Council on the effectiveness of the governance arrangements, risk management framework and internal control environment. It also incorporates Member conduct, replacing the previous Standards Committee.
- The Council's Constitution contains a Code of Conduct for Councillors, protocols advising on the Code of Conduct of Officers and a specific protocol on Member / Officer Relations. It also details each Committees clear terms of reference and work programmes to set out their roles and responsibilities.

- Cabinet member reports are circulated to councillors on current local government issues and publications and regular briefings are provided on their role. Notices of all key decisions to be taken are published in the Council's Forward Plan. This allows stakeholders to be aware of decisions to be taken and secondly to whom representations can be made. Agendas, reports and published decisions are available to councillors and the general public via the Council's web pages.
- Changes to services provided and new legislation during the year was integrated into the ongoing management of the Council.
- The Council ensures that effective management arrangements are in place at the top of the organisation. A revised structure has been introduced to reflect the new commissioning role to deliver services.
- Key officers within the Council are:
  - The Council's Chief Executive (and Head of Paid Service) leads the Council's officers and Chairs CMT;
  - The Corporate Director: Resources as the s.151 Officer appointed under the 1972 Local Government Act carries overall responsibility for the financial administration of the City Council. They are also responsible for ensuring that there is an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the Council's accounting records and of its systems of internal control; and
  - The Director of Governance, as Monitoring Officer, carries overall responsibility for legal compliance and the maintenance of high standards of conduct by providing advice and support to Members and Officers.

- Regular CMT meetings are held. Corporate Directors meet their respective Cabinet Members on a regular basis. In addition, there are a number of officer working groups who meet to deal with a range of specific service as well as cross cutting issues.
- All staff, including senior management, have conditions of employment and job descriptions which set out their roles and responsibilities. Terms and conditions of employment are in line with the harmonisation agreement implemented in 2008, and are regularly refreshed and amended following consultation with Unions. The terms and conditions of members are set out in the Members' Allowances Scheme within the Council's Constitution. The Scheme is approved by Council following preparation and review by an independent Panel at least annually.
- The Council maintains an objective and professional relationship with external auditors and statutory inspectors, as evidenced by the Annual Audit Letter.

### ***Standards of Conduct and Behaviour***

Good governance means promoting appropriate values for the Council and demonstrating the values of good governance by upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour. The following describes how the Council achieves this:

- The Director of Governance, after consultation with the Chief Executive and Corporate Director: Resources can report to Full Council if they consider that any proposal, decision or omission would give rise to unlawfulness or maladministration. Such a report will have the effect of stopping the proposal or decision being implemented until the report has been considered. No reports were produced in 2015 / 2016.

- The Council has adopted a number of codes and protocols that govern both Member and officer activities defining the standards of behaviour – such as Members Code of Conduct; Officers' Code of Conduct; Member / Officer Protocol; Planning Code of Conduct; Member declarations of interest; Gifts and Hospitality and Grievance procedures.
- The Council takes fraud, corruption and maladministration seriously. Policies which aim to prevent or deal with such occurrences include the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy and Fraud Response Plan; Confidential Reporting Code (Whistleblowing Policy); and Human Resources policies regarding disciplinary of staff involved in such incidents. Fraud policies are under review to reflect the new CIPFA Code of Practice on "*Managing the Risk of Fraud and Corruption*".
- The Council has an Audit Committee which follows best practice set out within CIPFA guidance. Its purpose is to provide independent assurance of the adequacy of the internal control environment and to oversee the financial reporting process. Its membership of 8 Councillors also has the responsibility for the standards agenda so that it has the full remit of responsibilities in respect of governance. For standards related issues, the Council has also appointed an 'Independent Person' to oversee these.
- Corporate Complaints procedures enables the Council to receive and investigate any complaint made against it, a Member or a member of staff.
- The Council's financial management is conducted in accordance with the financial rules set out in the Constitution, the Budget Framework, Financial Regulations, Contract Regulations and Procurement Strategy. These rules set out the framework within

which the Council conducts its financial affairs and ensures proper financial arrangements are in place. Furthermore, the arrangements conform to governance requirements set out in the CIPFA "*Statement on the Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Local Government (2010)*". The Council is complying with requirements of the Code of Recommended Practice for Local Authorities on data transparency, such as disclosing Executive salaries and £500 spending transactions.

- Full Council approves a balanced budget before the start of each financial year. This includes the MTFS, annually reviewed, under which it plans its finances, target efficiency savings required and potential council tax implications over a ten year rolling period. During the year, budget monitoring reports are taken to Management Teams and Members on a regular basis.

### ***Decision Making, Scrutiny and Risk***

Good governance means taking informed and transparent decisions that are effectively scrutinised and managing risk. The following describes how the Council achieves this:

- The Leader and Cabinet are responsible for all Executive Decisions. Operational matters requiring decision are delegated to Council Officers under the Scheme of Delegations.
- Forthcoming key decisions by Cabinet (including decisions by individual Cabinet Members), are published in the Cabinet's Forward Plan in so far as they can be anticipated. This is reviewed at each Cabinet Meeting, together with any non-key decisions for the period.
- Cabinet has power to make decisions that are in accordance with the Council's policy framework and approved budget. Decisions

that fall outside the policy framework or approved budget must be referred to the Full Council.

- Council has several committees which carry out regulatory or scrutiny functions which encourages constructive challenge and enhances the Authority's performance overall. Scrutiny Committees have power to review the decisions of Cabinet and Cabinet Members, through the "call-in" process, to determine whether decisions have followed the agreed process and are in accordance with the Council's policy framework and approved budget.
- The Council's Internal Audit service operates in line with appropriate regulations. Responsibility for Internal Audit rests with the Chief Internal Auditor who supports the Audit Committee and reviews its effectiveness annually in line with best practice. The Internal Audit plan is based on the high risks reported within the risk registers together with key service changes being made. The Constitution makes it clear that management have the responsibility for operating a sound system of internal control. Internal Audit works with services to make recommendations around improvements to the control environment. Reporting lines are within the Resources Directorate with reporting lines to the Service Director: Financial Services, Corporate Director: Resources as well as access to the Chief Executive, Director of Governance and members as required. Reports, including an assessment of the adequacy of control and action plans to address weaknesses, are submitted to Members (through the Audit Committee), the Chief Executive, Corporate Directors and management as appropriate.
- The Council maintains both Strategic and Operational Risk Registers.

### ***Developing Capacity and Capability of Members and Officers***

Good governance means developing the capacity and capability of members and officers to be effective. The following describes how the Council achieves this:

- The Councils structure gives clear accountability for the performance management of services, both within departments and corporately.
- The Council aims to ensure that Members and managers of the Council have the skills, knowledge and capacity they need to discharge their responsibilities and recognises value of well trained and competent people in effective service delivery. The Council has maintained its Investors in People award. In developing Members' skills, the Council has an overall development strategy in place.
- Audit Committee focus is on key governance issues such as risk management and internal control, together with scrutiny arrangements for the accounts. Individual briefings are enhanced by an Audit Committee Handbook.
- The Council also provides induction programmes tailored to individual needs and opportunities for Members and officers to update their knowledge on a regular basis. All new and transferring employees will receive an induction. In addition, key messages are given to all: such as freedom of information and data security, procurement and financial regulations. E-learning tool-kits have been set up to enhance on the job training.
- All officers have comprehensive job descriptions and person specifications and the Council has a process in place to review



performance for all staff. Where capability issues are identified, appropriate processes are in place to try to resolve these.

- As the needs of councils become more and more stretched by finite resources, alternative service delivery methods have been explored. This has led to a number of services being provided in partnership with the private sector. In addition, there has been a development of shared service arrangements with other councils, with Peterborough being the lead authority. Examples include arrangements with Rutland; Fenland; and Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire.

### ***Engaging with Local People and Stakeholders***

Good governance means engaging with local people and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability. The following describes how the Council achieves this:

- The Council's planning and decision making processes are designed to include consultation with stakeholders and the submission of their views.
- Every year we carry out many consultation exercises. Arrangements are in place to enable engagement with all sections of the community. These arrangements recognise that different sections of the community have different priorities and establish explicit processes for dealing with these competing demands. These have included Employee forums / Joint consultative forum; Voluntary and community sector network; One-off consultation events; and Public meetings. Varied social media channels of communication are used to reach all sections of the community and other stakeholders.

- The Council has a number of significant partnerships, outsourced contracts and service vehicles. These are:
  - Greater Peterborough Partnership – our local strategic partner;
  - Peterborough Culture and Leisure Trust (Vivacity);
  - Opportunity Peterborough;
  - Amey - An outsourced partnership for the provision of street scene activities previously undertaken by City Services;
  - Skanska – Provision of Highways Maintenance service;
  - SERCO – Provision of Council back office facilities, including revenues and benefits and ICT services;
  - Health and Well Being Board – established to provide a strategic leadership forum focused on securing and improving the health and well-being of Peterborough residents;
  - Peterborough Investment Partnership – a Joint Venture partnership to support growth and development of key sites; and
  - Blue Sky Peterborough – the Council's energy services company.

### **Review of Effectiveness**

The Council reviews the effectiveness of its governance framework including the system of internal control. The review of effectiveness is informed by managers within the Council who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the governance

environment, the work of the internal auditors, and also by comments made by the external auditors and other inspection agencies.

In year review mechanisms, including Member engagement is ensured by:

- Cabinet is responsible for considering overall financial performance management and receives reports during the year. It is also responsible for key decisions and for initiating corrective action in relation to risk and internal control issues;
- There is a scrutiny function which holds the Cabinet to account, which includes an overview of service and financial performance, efficiency and effectiveness.
- Audit Committee meet throughout the year to provide independent assurance to the Council in relation to the effectiveness of the risk management framework, internal control environment and the annual statement of accounts. It now has the combined remit to oversee Member conduct.
- Internal Audit is an independent and objective assurance service to the management of the Council who complete a programme of reviews throughout the year to provide an opinion of the internal control, risk management and governance arrangements. The work includes not only reviews of financial control, but also of risk management, control over the achievement of organisational policies and objectives, and compliance with laws and regulations. The outcome of all audit reviews are reported to the appropriate Director, and matters of concern are raised with the Chief Executive, Corporate Director: Resources, Leader of the Council and the Chair of the Audit Committee. Management of the Internal Audit function conforms to the principles contained in CIPFA's "*Statement on the Role of*

*the Head of Internal Audit in Local Government (2010)*" and the "*Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (2013)*".

- Following the transfer of housing benefit investigations to the Single Fraud Investigation Service within the Department for Work and Pensions, the remaining investigations service transferred into Internal Audit in December 2014. Their remit is to undertake investigations into corporate fraud, corporate complaints and council tax as well as anomalies generated by the National Fraud Initiative.
- Risk management is handled through a range of mechanisms. Risk owners are in place for all corporate risks. The risks cascade down to the services, who manage the risks via the service planning process and regular review. Corporate risks are revisited through CMT quarterly and Audit Committee half yearly. Risks are accounted for in all project planning, the creation of the MTFs and other Council operations as an inherent part of normal procedure.
- Work undertaken as part of the Strategic Governance Board. Made up of senior officers from across the Council and Members, the Board has been established to consider, review and coordinate improvements in all aspects of the governance framework. This will be reconvened in 2016.
- A number of areas were identified in the proceeding Annual Governance Statement and an update has been included on our progress to improve governance regarding these issues.
- Assurance from the Audit Commission, other Inspection Agencies and External Audit. On completion of their work, an Annual Audit Letter is issued to the Council. The last Annual Audit Letter was issued for the financial year 2014 / 2015, and was discussed and endorsed at meetings of the Cabinet and

Audit Committee with an unqualified audit opinion on the financial statements.

The year-end review of the governance arrangements and the control environment included:

- The Chief Internal Auditors' annual opinion on the status of the Council in terms of the governance and overall controls. From these works it was considered that the Council has adequate and effective systems of internal control in place to manage the achievement of its objectives.
- Assurance from Corporate Directors and their management teams on the key elements of the control framework that were in place in their departments. The statement itself has been circulated to all Directors for consideration and is supported by them as an accurate reflection on the governance arrangements in place for the year.

### **Significant Governance Issues**

The review process has highlighted a number of new significant issues of the effectiveness of the governance and internal control environment. For each issue, detailed action plans have been determined, a responsible officer identified and a summary of the key elements are included in the table overleaf.

<b>2014 / 2015 Governance Issues: Progress to Date</b>	
<b>Issue</b>	<b>Progress</b>
<p><b>Counter Fraud Arrangements</b></p> <p>In December 2014, responsibility for Housing Benefit fraud investigation work transferred to the Single Fraud Investigation Service operated by the Department for Works and Pensions and fraud investigation resources have since been realigned.</p> <p>Following these changes our approach to counter-fraud should be aligned with the new CIPFA Code of Practice on “Managing the Risk of Fraud and Corruption”.</p> <p>Corporate Director: Resources</p>	<p>Following the changes made to fraud investigation in December 2014, a progress / follow up report was submitted to Corporate Management Team in February 2016 which also incorporated Corporate Complaints.</p> <p>Service provision has been benchmarked against the Code of Practice during 2015 / 2016 and an Action Plan established to address a number of minor gaps.</p>
<p><b>Management of the Better Care Fund</b></p> <p>Planning and pooled budget arrangement with the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) known as the Better Care Fund (BCF). This plan sets out the Council's and CCGs' vision to deliver integrated health and social care systems to reduce demand on acute hospital and care home provision in favour of a sustainable integrated neighbourhood health and social care system.</p> <p>Corporate Director: People and Communities</p>	<p>Ongoing reviews and scrutiny is in place to ensure effective management of the Better Care Fund with our partners.</p>
<p><b>Austerity Measures</b></p> <p>Continuing budget pressures need to be effectively managed in order to deliver a balanced budget while maintaining an effective delivery of services to the public.</p> <p>Corporate Director: Resources</p>	<p>A balanced budget was agreed for 2015 / 2016 as part of the medium term financial plan and has been delivered in its entirety. A balanced budget has once again been agreed for 2016 / 2017 which reiterated that no service reductions would be required.</p> <p>Budget preparation commenced early each year in order to increase the confidence in the process and allow for effective consultation and scrutiny with Members and stakeholders.</p>

2014 / 2015 Governance Issues: Progress to Date	
Issue	Progress
<p><b>Review of Ward Boundaries</b></p> <p>The Council has been subject to review by the Electoral Commission and new arrangements will be in place for 2016. Effective management is required to ensure that the processes deliver and inform the public of the changes and how it impacts on them.</p> <p>Director of Governance</p>	<p>There has been effective management arrangements in place for the successful adoption of new boundaries resulting in an all-out election in May 2016. Effective publicity and consolation resulted in no issues arising.</p>
<p><b>Service Delivery Models</b></p> <p>As part of the ongoing delivery of savings and innovative ways of service delivery, appropriate governance arrangements are required to prevent any conflicts of interests as staff undertake more roles and have dual reporting commitments.</p> <p>Corporate Director: Resources</p> <p>Director of Governance</p>	<p>Ongoing training has been delivered to officers and members to ensure that new models are effectively developed, followed and reviewed against.</p>

## 2015 / 2016 Governance Issues:

These have been incorporated into the following areas which will need to be resolved during the year:

New Governance Issue	
Issue	Lead Officer
<p>Ongoing and future changes to the Council's financial framework including several changes to national and regional funding regimes will increase the financial pressure the Council is required to contribute to reduce the national deficit. These changes arise from on-going changes to benefit administration and continued downward pressure on government funding of Councils as confirmed in the indicative long term financial settlement.</p> <p>Sizable grant reductions over the next 4 years could have a profound impact on the way the council delivers services and on its internal operations. For example, reductions in staffing levels could lead to a reduction in the effectiveness or application of controls.</p>	Corporate Director: Growth and Regeneration
<p>The Council has a number of key regeneration projects planned for the future which are to be delivered in partnership, for example Fletton Quays. Should one of these high profile projects not be delivered as planned it is likely to result in reputational damage to the Council or increase the financial pressure on the council for the future.</p> <p>Robust governance arrangements will be required.</p>	Director of Governance
<p>A number of data quality issues identified in Childrens and Communities will be followed up to ensure that quality records are maintained as the Customer Experience develops.</p>	Corporate Director: Children and Communities
<p>The New Governance Framework for 2016 / 2017 onwards will need to be adopted. Work will be required throughout the year to ensure that the Council complies with it and any gaps are addressed. As part of this there will be a need to refresh the Local Code of Governance</p>	Director of Governance

**Certification**

As Leader and Chief Executive, we have been advised on the implications of the results of the review of effectiveness of the Council's governance framework, by the Audit Committee and Cabinet.

Our overall assessment is that the Annual Governance Statement is a balanced reflection of the governance environment and that an adequate framework exists within Peterborough City Council to ensure effective internal control is maintained. We are also satisfied that there are appropriate plans in place to address any significant governance issues and will monitor their implementation and operations as part of our next annual review.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Gillian Beasley, Chief Executive

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Councillor Holdich, Leader of the Council

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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