



REPORT TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE

20 JULY 2017

Report by: GwE Managing Director

Subject: Annual Governance Statement for the Joint Committee

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To accept and approve the Annual Governance Statement.

2.0 Background

2.1 The Accounts and Audit (Wales) 2014 Regulations sets fixed requirements on public bodies that operate partnership management arrangements through formal joint committees.

2.2 Section 5 requires the Joint Committee to review and approve annually a statement of internal control. To comply with this requirement the Annual Governance Statement has been prepared. The document has been produced to offer a framework to the Joint Committee's operation.

3.0 Recommendations

3.1 The Joint Committee is asked to accept and approve the Annual Governance Statement.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5.0 Equalities Impact

5.1 There are no new equalities implications arising from this report.

6.0 Personnel Implications

6.1 There are no new personnel implications arising from this report.

7.0 Appendices

7.1 Annual Governance Statement 2016/17

OPINION OF THE STATUTORY OFFICERS

Monitoring Officer:

This statement is an appropriate reflection of GwE's governance arrangements. It is noted that the work of updating these arrangements are currently ongoing. There is now a need to move ahead to finalise the revision to the inter-authority arrangements.

Statutory Finance Officer:

The service review by Estyn and the Wales Audit Office in January 2015, followed by a further review by Estyn in April 2016, has helped GwE to review the effectiveness of its governance arrangements, and there is a commitment to respond to these reports. I am satisfied that this statement is a fair reflection of GwE's governance arrangements for 2016/17.

Nevertheless, Joint Committee members [particularly Councillors and Chief Education Officers of the 6 local authorities in Wales, together with the Service Managing Director] have a crucial role and significant challenge to collaborate to ensure that GwE undertakes its responsibilities effectively, for the benefit of the region's schools and pupils, and makes positive progress to ensure the continuity of the agreement between the 6 authorities.