



Chester-le-Street
District Council

Report to:	Council
Date of Meeting:	29 June 2006
Report from:	Director of Resources
Title of Report:	Member Approval of the Statement of Internal Control
Agenda Item Number:	15

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The report seeks Council's approval to the Statement of Internal Control for 2005/06, which is attached as an appendix to the report.
- 1.2 This is subject to audit; the outcome of the audit will be reported to Council in September.

2. Consultation

- 2.1 Corporate Management Team has been consulted on the Statement of Internal Control. The Corporate Governance Steering Group, which comprises the Assistant Chief Executive, Risk and Financial Services Manager, Legal and Democratic Services Manager, Chief Internal Auditor and Director of Resources, has been fully involved in the production of the Statement of Internal Control.

3. Corporate Plan and Priorities

- 3.1 The Council's internal control framework and corporate governance arrangements underpin all the Council's activities.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial

Although there are no direct financial implications arising from the report, the internal control framework helps to ensure appropriate financial management arrangements are embedded throughout the authority.

4.2 Other Services

All service areas have produced managers' assurance statements which have informed the production of the Statement of Internal Control.

4.3 Risk

The Council's Risk Management arrangements are an integral part of the authority's internal control and corporate governance framework.

5. **Report**

5.1 The Statement of Internal Control forms part of the Statement of Accounts, but should be the subject of a separate agenda item.

5.2 The Statement of Internal Control is attached as an appendix to the report, however it is worth highlighting several of the actions detailed in section 9.5 which ought to be drawn to Members' attention:-

- (i) An Action Plan for the Corporate Governance Steering Group, needs to be developed and monitored by CMT;
- (ii) Risk Management software will be used in 2006/07 to facilitate more regular risk monitoring and reporting; partnership arrangements will be reviewed using the partnership toolkit to identify and manage the risks and performance of partnership working.
- (iii) The Procurement Action Plan will be implemented, and monitored by the Procurement Strategy Group.
- (iv) We will work with the Emergency Planning Unit to provide a training programme and include emergency planning guidance for 2007/08.
- (v) We will implement actions to improve our Use of Resources Assessment to Level 3 for 2006/07.

6. **Recommendations**

6.1 The Council is recommended to approve the Statement of Internal Control, subject to audit.

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Version 1.0

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