

## 6. LOCAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

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The Local Government Act 2002 contains a new requirement that the Council must publish by 31 December 2003 a "local governance statement".

This document is required to provide information to the public on a number of specified topics regarding the structure of the organisation and the Council's decision-making processes.

A draft statement containing the information required by the Act is attached for the Council's consideration.

Having adopted the first Statement by 31 December 2003 the Council is required to adopt a new statement within six months of the local body elections, and update it as appropriate.

Note: Adoption of the Statement does not indicate support for the eight ward option set out in Section 7(b)(i) of the attachment.

**Recommendation:** That the Council adopt the attached document as its local governance statement.