

# Tyne Port Health Authority Report to the Joint Board Date: Tuesday 7 June 2016

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**Subject:** Annual Governance Statement for 2015/16

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Clerk to the Authority

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## PART 1

### 1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present the annual governance statement for the financial year 2015/16 to the Joint Board for consideration and seek approval of it for submission to the External Auditor.

### 1.2 Recommendation

It is recommended that the Joint Board:

Note and approve the annual governance statement covering the financial year 2015/16 relating to the Authority as attached in **Appendix 1** to this report for submission to the External Auditor.

## 2.0 Information

### 2.1 Background

- 2.1.1 The Tyne Port Health Authority is a “smaller relevant body” under the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 by virtue of the Audit Commission Act 1998 for the purposes of auditing of accounts.

The Authority is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that there is a sound system of internal control which facilitates the effective exercise of the Authority’s functions.

Following an annual review of the effectiveness of its system of internal control the body must approve an annual governance statement. This statement is provided for in

Section 1 of the Smaller Authorities in England Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2016 that is submitted to the External Auditor, attached to this report as **Appendix 1**.

The Clerk to the Authority has completed the annual governance statement. Following the outcome of the recent internal audit report and the previous external audit report all of the statements of assurance have been answered 'Yes'.

### **3.0 Decision Options**

The options available to the Joint Board are:

#### Option 1

To note and approve for submission to the External Auditor the annual governance statement covering the financial year 2015/16 relating to the Authority as attached in **Appendix 1**.

#### Option 2

To note and not approve for submission to the External Auditor the annual governance statement covering the financial year 2015/16 relating to the Authority as attached in **Appendix 1**.

Option 1 is the recommended option. This will allow the Tyne Port Health Authority to comply with Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011.

### **4.0 Appendices:**

- 4.1 Appendix 1 – Smaller Authorities in England Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2016, Section 1: Annual Governance Statement.

### **5.0 Contact Officers:**

Colin MacDonald, Clerk to the Authority – Tel 0191 643 6620

### **6.0 Background Information:**

The following background papers have been used in the compilation of this report and are available for inspection at the offices of the author of the report:

Tyne Port Health Authority Order 2010  
Audit Commission Act 1998  
Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011  
Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014  
The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015  
Governance and Accountability for Local Councils, A Practitioners' Guide (England) 2014, JPAG

## **PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING**

### **1.0 Finance and Other Resources:**

There are no direct financial implications relating to this report.

### **2.0 Legal**

Consideration of this report and agreement of the recommendations contained therein will allow the Tyne Port Health Authority to comply with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011.