

Subject: Governance Champions

Status: For Publication

Report to: Standards Committee

Date: 9th October 2007

Report of: Executive Director of Resources

Portfolio

Holder: A Well Managed Council

Key Decision: No

Forward Plan General Exception Special Urgency

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To outline proposals to establish Governance Champions within the Council.

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

2.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities and associated corporate objective.

- Well Managed Council (Improvement, Community Network) by ensuring that staff have an awareness of their role in respect of corporate governance so that best practice can be achieved.

3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

- Availability of the right people to participate effectively
- Support from Senior Management Team

4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

- 4.1 The Council aims to develop best practice in corporate governance and is proposing to establish Governance Champions in each service area as part of this approach.
- 4.2 The role of Governance Champions will be to raise awareness and help ensure compliance with the ethical governance framework. The champions will be invited to participate in meetings to ensure that they are consulted on governance issues affecting the Council so that this can be cascaded throughout their teams. The Democratic Services Team in consultation with the Chair of the Standards Committee will set a work programme for the Group and the Standards Committee will receive updates on the work being undertaken by the Group.
- 4.3 A role description will be developed for the Champions to provide clarity on their roles and responsibilities. A draft is attached at Appendix A for the consideration of the Standards Committee.

5. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

6. COMMENTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF REGULATORY SERVICES

- 6.1 This is an important component of best practice in relation to corporate governance.

7. COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES

- 7.1 There are no immediate Human Resource implications.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 It is important that the Council continually strives for improvement and this approach will support the Council in establishing best practice in governance matters.

9. RECOMMENDATION

- 9.1 That the Council's Senior Management Team be asked to identify Governance Champions within their service areas.
- 9.2 That the draft role description be approved.

10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- 10.1 Chair of Standards Committee. Portfolio Holder for a Well Managed Council.

11. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is an Equality Impact Assessment required No

Is an Equality Impact Assessment attached No

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No background papers