

Subject: Review of Corporate
Governance Arrangements

Status: For Publication

Report to: Audit Scrutiny Committee

Date: 7th February 2008

Report of: The Executive Director of Regulatory Services

Portfolio

Holder: Well-Managed Council

Key Decision: No

Forward Plan General Exception Special Urgency "X" In
Relevant Box

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To consider the Review of Corporate Governance

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

2.1 The matters discussed in this report are linked to and support the following corporate priorities:

- Delivering Quality Services to Customer
- Well Managed Council
- Equipping Members to fulfil their role as leaders in the community by ensuring that strong ethical governance arrangements are in place which will increase public confidence in the high ethical standards required and maintained by the Council.

3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The continual implementation of the Code of Corporate Governance will ensure that the business of the Council is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for and is used economically, efficiently and effectively.

4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

4.1 A revised Governance Statement was published in June 2007 and replaces the former CIPFA/SOLACE Framework on which the Council's local code of corporate governance was based.

- 4.2 The revised Governance Statement has statutory application in relation to meeting the requirements of Regulation 4 (2) of the Accounts and Audit Regulations for financial years starting on or after 1st April 2007. This means that the Statement on Internal Control has been replaced by a broadly similar Governance Statement.
- 4.3 A Review of Corporate Governance Arrangements is attached for Members' comments.

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS

5. SECTION 151 OFFICER

- 5.1 The new Statement will be a key document in evidencing amongst other things the Councils governance and controls framework. It is important that the Council is able to deliver a robust governance statement and to evidence and demonstrate progress.
- 5.2 In particular this will be key evidence for the annual Use of Resources score and the new Comprehensive Area Assessment.

6. MONITORING

- 6.1 The revised Governance Statement is an important feature in the ethical framework of the Council.

7. HEAD OF PEOPLE AND ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (ON BEHALF OF THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICES)

- 7.1 There are no Human Resource implications arising from this report.

8. CONCLUSION

- 8.1 It is important that Members fully consider the Review of Corporate Governance.

9. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 9.1 That the Review of Corporate Governance Arrangements be noted, and that in the event that the committee have any amendments that these are considered by Cabinet when approving the document.

10. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- 10.1 Head of Finance, Monitoring Officer, Executive Director of Resources.

11. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is an Equality Impact Assessment required	No
Is an Equality Impact Assessment attached	No

12. BIODIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment required No
Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment attached No

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No background papers