



Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee

Briefing Paper

Report of: Peter Jones (Head of the Chief Executive's Office)
Date: Thursday, 13 November 2008
Open

Corporate Governance Framework

1. Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to provide a mid-year progress report with the implementation of the Council's Corporate Governance Framework (CGF).

2. Background

- 2.1 The Council agreed an updated CGF following a report to the Audit Committee on 17 March 2008. For the purpose of this report, corporate governance is defined as the way in which "local government bodies ensure they are doing the right things in the right way for the right people in a timely, inclusive, open, honest and accountable manner. It comprises the systems, processes, culture and values by which local government bodies are directed and controlled and through which they account to, engage with and lead their communities." (*Guidance issued by CIPFA & SOLACE*)
- 2.2 The six core principles underpinning the CGF are:
- i) A clear definition of the Council's purpose and desired outcomes
 - ii) Well-defined functions and responsibilities
 - iii) An appropriate corporate culture and values
 - iv) Transparent decision-making
 - v) A strong governance team
 - vi) Real accountability to stakeholders
- 2.3 The report in March 2008 stated that a mid-year progress report would be brought to this Committee, and an updated action plan is contained in the Appendix to this report. An end-of-year report will also be provided in April / May 2009. External auditors will also make reference to this in their Annual Audit & Inspection Letter, which is scheduled to be received at the end of the year (2008/09).

3. Key Issues

- 3.1 Members are asked to note the progress report. Any further information required will be provided at the next meeting of this Committee.

4. Appendix

- 4.1 Progress report for the Council's Corporate Governance Framework, 2008/09.

5. Background Papers

- 5.1 Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: A Framework (*Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy [CIPFA] and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives [SOLACE]*)

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