

WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

AUDIT COMMITTEE
14th MARCH 2011

Corporate Governance Framework – Action Plan

OPEN	
COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME	Internal Organisational Theme
CORPORATE THEME:	Improving Corporacy & Performance
KEY PRIORITY:	Organisational Performance
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor John Campion
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	Director of Resources david.buckland@wyreforstdc.gov.uk
CONTACT OFFICERS:	Director of Resources Ext 2100 david.buckland@wyreforstdc.gov.uk
APPENDIX 1	Review of compliance with the Corporate Governance Framework

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is to present the current position on the action plan to monitor the issues identified in the Council adopting the Corporate Governance Framework which adopted with effect from 1 April 2008.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **Audit Committee is asked to approve and to note the current position of the Corporate Government Framework Action Plan.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 A report was presented to the Audit committee on 17 March 2008, detailing a new Corporate Governance Framework *Delivering Good Governance in Local Governance*, which has been developed jointly by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE).
- 3.2 A further report was presented to the Audit Committee on 29 June 2009, which presented the results of the self assessment in relation to the adoption of the six core principles which underpin the governance of each local government body, these being:
1. Focusing on the purpose of the authority and on outcomes for the community and creating and implementing a vision for the local area.
 2. Members and officers working together to achieve a common purpose with clearly defined functions and roles
 3. Promoting values for the authority and demonstrating the values of good governance through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour

4. Taking informed and transparent decisions which are subject to effective scrutiny and managing risk
5. Developing the capacity and capability of members and officers to be effective.
6. Engaging with local people and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability

3.3 The self assessment considered:-

- The extent to which the authority complies with the principles and elements of good governance set out in the Framework.
- Systems, processes and documentation that provide evidence of compliance.
- The individuals and committees responsible for monitoring and reviewing the systems, processes and documentation identified.
- The issues that have not been addressed in the authority and consider how they should be addressed.
- The individuals who would be responsible for undertaking the actions that are required.

3.6 In March 2010, a comprehensive review of the implementation of the action points was undertaken which identified that the majority of actions had been completed. This report reviews the areas where there were outstanding actions in March 2010 as well as areas where there has been a change in the last twelve months. The current review is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

4. KEY ISSUES

4.1 The findings detailed at Appendix 1, demonstrate that the Council's Governance arrangements are robust and operating effectively. The further actions required have continued to be implemented. A further review on any outstanding actions will be presented to the Audit Committee early in 2011/12.

4.2 The findings of this self assessment help to inform the production of the Annual Governance Statement which will be presented to the June meeting of the Audit Committee.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no financial implications relating to this report.

6. LEGAL & POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 it is a requirement under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003 (amended 2006) that the Council prepares an Annual Governance Statement, the adoption of the Corporate Governance Framework assists with this requirement.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 The purpose of the self-assessment is to identify any gaps in the Council's existing corporate governance arrangements. By addressing any gaps, the Council is

minimising its exposure to risk.

8 EQUALITY IMPACT NEEDS ASSESSMENT

8.1 There are no discernable equality and impact assessments relating to this report.

8. CONCLUSION

8.1 A review undertaken of the Council's Governance arrangements has identified that these arrangements are adequate and operating effectively in practice. The review identified some areas where there is the scope for further improvement and officers will address and in the whole these have been addressed.

9. CONSULTEES

9.1 Corporate Management Team

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 CIPFA Finance Advisory Network The Annual Governance Statement Meeting the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003, Incorporating Accounts and Audit (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2006 Rough Guide for Practitioners with effect from 2007/8.

10.2 DCLG Circular 03/2006.

10.3 Delivering Good Governance in Local Government CIPFA/SOLACE.

10.4 Code of Practice for Internal Audit in the UK CIPFA 2006.