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REPORT TO:	STANDARDS COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 9
DATE OF MEETING:	4 JULY 2006	
REPORT FROM:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	JOHN WALTON, ACTING HEAD OF LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES EXT 5831	DOC:
SUBJECT:	LOCAL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE – REVIEW OF SELF ASSESSMENT	REF: JFW
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: Council 11.8.05

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### **1.0 Recommendation**

- 1.1 That the Committee review and report to Council on progress in achieving the action points set out in the Self Assessment of performance under the Local Code of Corporate Governance.

### **2.0 Purpose of Report**

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- (1) outline the background and process which has led to the submission of the appended Review of Self Assessment document;
- (2) invite the Committee to consider the document and report to the Council on progress.

### **3.0 Background**

- 3.1 A Local Code of Corporate Governance was adopted by the Council on 11 August 2005, at which time it was reported that a Self Assessment audit had been carried out by officers to provide evidence of how the Council had fulfilled or intended to fulfil its commitment to corporate governance.
- 3.2 In approving the Code, the Council resolved that this Committee review and report half-yearly on progress in achieving the action points set out in the Code. The reason this report has been deferred until now was to enable the Council first to review those action points which are also Corporate Plan Milestones, as part of its consideration of the Corporate Plan 2006-9. This was done on 25 May 2006.

3.3 The Self Assessment grid approved last August reflected the five dimensions identified in the Code. These are:

- Community Focus
- Service Delivery
- Structures and Processes
- Risk Management and Internal Control
- Standards of Conduct.

For each of these dimensions, the grid listed:

- specific requirements under the Code (column 1)
- the extent to which each of these requirements had been achieved (column 2)
- action points still needed to achieve the requirements (column 3)
- the dates by which the action points were to be done (column 4)
- the lead officer for each action point (column 5).

3.4 A Review of Self Assessment document (Appendix A to this report) has been produced to demonstrate progress since the Self Assessment exercise was approved last August. This follows the same format as the Self Assessment grid, with amendments to reflect the current position shown by bold font and/or strikethrough.

For example, action points which have already been achieved have been struck through in column 3 and re-appear in bold font in column 2. Similar amendments are shown where an action point has not yet been achieved but has been given a revised target date (eg where the Council has rolled Corporate Plan Milestones forward into the next financial year).

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

4.1 None.

#### **5.0 Corporate Implications**

5.1 The Self Assessment process is an important element in ensuring that the Council keeps under review its Local Code of Corporate Governance, in order to continue to maintain the underlying principles of openness, inclusivity, integrity, and accountability.

#### **6.0 Community Implications**

6.1 As set out in the Community Focus section of the Review document.

#### **7.0 Conclusion**

7.1 The appended Review of Self Assessment demonstrates the progress that has been achieved since the Self Assessment exercise was approved last August.

The Committee is invited to consider and review this progress and to report its views to the Council.

**8.0 Background Papers**

8.1 Local Code of Corporate Governance adopted on 11 August 2005.

8.2 Self Assessment grid approved on 11 August 2005.

