
REPORT TO:	STANDARDS COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 6
DATE OF MEETING:	19TH MARCH 2007	CATEGORY: DELEGATED/ RECOMMENDED
REPORT FROM:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE	OPEN PARAGRAPH NO:
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	ANDREA McCASKIE HEAD OF LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES (EXT. 5831)	DOC:U:\JAYNE\Commtee\COMM REP\LocalCodeReviewAssessStand .doc
SUBJECT:	LOCAL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE – REVIEW OF SELF ASSESSMENT	REF: AGM/JB
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: COUNCIL 11.8.05

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 Full Council on progress.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 A Local Code of Corporate Governance was adopted by the Council on 11th 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, Full Council resolved that the Standards Committee should review and report half yearly on progress in achieving the action points. The first review was carried out on 4th July 2006.

3.3 The Self Assessment grid attached at Annexe 'A' reflects 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 lists:

- 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 the Self Assessment document has been produced to demonstrate progress since the Self Assessment exercise was assessed last year. Action points that have been achieved appear in bold font in column 2.

3.5 This Committee is invited to consider the Self Assessment document and report its views to Full Council on progress.

3.6 For this Committee's information, Full Council in establishing the Audit Sub-Committee on 25th May 2006, resolved that they should oversee the Authority's corporate governance arrangements in relation to financial matters and to these ends, review and report progress in achieving the action points set out in the Code.

3.7 The Audit Sub-Committee met on 28th February 2007 and noted progress made so far in achieving the action points set out in the Self Assessment of performance and requested that a further report be submitted in the new municipal year 2007/08 once the target date for completion of the action points had expired.

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 Background Papers

Local Code of Corporate Governance adopted on 11th August 2005

Self Assessment grid approved on 17th August 2006