

Local Code of Corporate Governance

Action Plan

(incorporating actions from the Annual Governance Statement 2008/09 *)

Issues and Actions	Timescale	Responsible Officer	Position
<p>*</p> <p>Continue to review the Local Code of Corporate Governance in accordance with updated guidance and to undertake any outstanding work during the year</p> <p>(22)</p>	½ yearly review	Head of Legal & Democratic Services	<p>Revised Code of Corporate Governance considered by Standards Committee on 28/5/08, considered by Audit Sub-Committee on 18/6/08 and approved by Full Council on 3/7/08.</p> <p>Action Plan reviewed and updated by Senior Officer Group on 6/11/08, 19/5/09 and 9/11/09.</p> <p>Six monthly review of Action Plan by Audit Sub-Committee – 25/2/09 and 17/6/09 and Standards Committee – 18/12/08 and 21/7/09 with recommendations considered by Council 1/10/09.</p> <p>External peer assessment of the Council's Corporate Governance function carried out by SOLACE – April 2009</p>
<p>*</p> <p>Ensure that performance is systematically measured and monitored relative to other Councils and that action is taken as appropriate – Implementation of new Performance Management system</p> <p>(16)</p>	March 2010	Head of Organisational Development	<p>Quarterly performance reports are presented to policy committees that outline levels of performance by exception and comparisons with other Councils, where appropriate. The reports will recommend actions to address any areas of under performance.</p> <p>The Ten Performance Management system is now in place and reports are being produced from 1st Quarter of 2009/10. A future plan is in place to structure development around the needs of the Council and will integrate the key drivers to help us maintain continuous improvement.</p>

Issues and Actions	Timescale	Responsible Officer	Position
<p>* Ensure that the Council recognises more clearly its duty to promote equality and opportunity – implement an Action Plan to take us to 'Achieving' status of the National Equality Framework that includes the commencement of Equality Impact Risk Assessments (EIRA) and monitor progress against this</p> <p>(45) (52)</p>	<p>March 2010</p>	<p>Head of Organisational Development</p>	<p>We have developed a robust action plan and are on track to reach 'Achieving' status of the Equality Standard by March 2010. This was approved at Finance and Management Committee on Thursday, 12/6/08. An action plan is in place and an internal group monitors progress and an annual report is presented to Finance & Management Committee.</p> <p>Training on EIRA's has been completed and work has continued across the Council. The framework for completing EIRA has been developed and is now in use. This will ensure the efficient completion of the remaining EIRA's.</p> <p>A new Equality Framework for Local Government came into effect from April 2009. We have reviewed our Corporate Equalities and Fairness scheme and Action Plan in light of the new framework. A formal response on the consultation paper has been returned.</p>
<p>* Members' training and development programme to be reviewed and Action Plan implemented</p> <p>(42) (43) (44)</p>	<p>March 2010</p>	<p>Head of Legal & Democratic Services / Head of Organisational Development</p>	<p>Training Champions have been identified and programme is under development.</p> <p>Training activities have been organised including sessions for Development Control / Standards / Licensing and Appeals Sub-Committee Members. Courses also include Health & Safety, Equality & Fairness and Performance Management.</p> <p>Briefing sessions have been provided for all Elected Members from each Head of Service.</p> <p>E-learning resources available for all Elected Members through the Learning Pool (formerly developed through the IDEA)</p> <p>Members have approved role profiles and personal development plans which will be undertaken during the forthcoming municipal year – February 2009</p>

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<p>*</p> <p>Maintain and strengthen current partnership arrangements – Research options available to develop a Good Practice Protocol for partnership working</p> <p>(3) (18) (19) (27)</p>	March 2010	Head of Organisational Development / Head of Leisure & Community Development	Background work to be undertaken to establish what documentation we currently have adopted and identify any gaps and how these will be addressed. We have strong partnership working through the COMPACT and the LSP along with good partnership working in other areas. Research is to be undertaken on options available to develop a Protocol and its value for the Council.
<p>Support development of Community / Parish Plans</p> <p>(3)</p>	March 2010	Head of Leisure & Community Development	Ongoing support for Plans. Community Partnership Officer continues to provide support to Parish Councils who are at different stages of progress.
<p>Develop Service Standards across all service areas</p> <p>(5)</p>	March 2010	All Heads of Service Lead by Head of Customer Services	Director of Corporate Services to arrange a Working Group to develop service standards for outstanding areas.
<p>Formation and implementation of an Action Plan to undertake the outcomes of the Place Survey</p> <p>(17) (50)</p>	March 2010	Head of Organisational Development	The Place Survey was undertaken between September and December 2008. The results were submitted to the Audit Commission in January 2009. Results for this have now been published and the information has been presented by Ipsos Mori to Full Council on 10th September and the South Derbyshire Partnership Board on 22nd October 2009. We have reviewed the findings and are in the process of developing an action plan as to how we will address the issues raised.
<p>Financial Regulations to be reviewed and Contract Procedure Rules to be reviewed</p> <p>(9)</p>	December 2009	Head of Finance & Property Services	In particular, this is required as the Council moves towards E-procurement. Effect on rules is being monitored as progress is made. An update was originally intended for the Audit Sub-Committee in June 2009. This will now be undertaken as part of the Contracts Audit in November 2009 and reported to the Audit Committee in December.
<p>Review Officer Code of Conduct when National Guidelines issued</p> <p>(21)</p>	March 2010	Head of Organisational Development / Head of Legal & Democratic Services	Consultation document has been provided and Council has submitted a formal response. Awaiting further guidance that is expected during 2009.

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Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review arrangements and develop an Action Plan (28)	March 2010	Head of Legal & Democratic Services	Scrutiny focus session with Members and Officers – 29/5/08 Report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 25/6/08 regarding working arrangements. Six monthly review took place – 10/12/08 External peer assessment of the Council's Overview & Scrutiny function by Cherwell Borough Council – April 2009 Report considered by the annual Overview and Scrutiny focus session on 20/10/09 and by Council on 12/11/09, with consequential revisions made to the Constitution.
Establish a Corporate Workforce Development Strategy (46)	June 2009	Head of Organisational Development	This has been completed and approved at the meeting of Finance & Management Committee held on 18th June 2009.
Review recruitment and selection process (46)	November 2009	Head of Organisational Development	Revised Policy and Procedure has been completed. This is subject to consultation with the Trades Unions and is expected to be implemented from 1st November 2009.
EIRA screening assessment of policy documents (45)	March 2010	Head of Organisational Development	This work has continued across the Council. A plan is in place to have completed all EIRA's during 2010/11.
Review Corporate Equalities and Fairness Scheme and Action Plan (45)	March 2010	Head of Organisational Development	A new Equality Framework for Local Government came into effect from April 2009. We have reviewed our Corporate Equalities and Fairness scheme and Action Plan in light of the new framework. A formal response on the consultation paper has been returned.
Ensure that the authority as a whole is open and accessible to the community (55)	March 2010	Head of Customer Services	Review Access Strategy
Promotion of Corporate Vision, Values and Priorities (1) (23)	March 2010	Head of Organisational Development	Promotional work has already taken place around the Council's corporate vision themes and priorities. Work on the values will be promoted externally and internally through 'Better'.
To ensure that Risk Management is embedded into the culture of the Council (35)	March 2010	Head of Finance & Property Services / Head of Organisational Development	Research options to integrate Risk Management with performance.