
REPORT TO:	COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM: 16
DATE OF MEETING:	20TH JANUARY 2011	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	STANDARDS COMMITTEE AND AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE	OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	ANDREA McCASKIE (EXT. 5831) HEAD OF LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND MONITORING OFFICER	DOC:U:\JAYNE\Committee\COMM REP\Code Corp Gov 20 Jan 11.doc
SUBJECT:	LOCAL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE – REVIEW OF SELF ASSESSMENT	REF: AGM/JB

1.0 Recommendation

- 1.1 That the Council accepts the recommendations of the Standards Committee, set out at paragraph 3.4, and those of the Audit Sub-Committee, set out at paragraph 3.3 on the Local Code of Corporate Governance – Review of Self Assessment.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To consider the recommendations of the Standards Committee and Audit Sub-Committee on the Local Code of Corporate Governance – Review of Self Assessment.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 A revised Local Code of Corporate Governance was adopted by the Council on 3rd July 2008, at which time it was reported that a Self Assessment audit had been carried out by senior 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 and the Audit Sub-Committee should receive half yearly reports on progress in relation to compliance with the six core principles on which the Code is based. This was to ensure that the Standards Committee had a pivotal role in promoting and maintaining high standards of conduct, whilst the Audit Sub-Committee would oversee and monitor arrangements for complying with Corporate Governance issues, including approving the Annual Governance Statement.
- 3.3 On 15th December 2010, the Audit Sub-Committee reviewed the Action Plan and Self Assessment document. It accepted the Self Assessment carried out by the senior officer group and recognised and was satisfied with the progress made to date in achieving the action points and the plans for improvement, agreeing that progress would be reviewed in six months and that there were no specific issues that have to be brought to the attention of Council.

- 3.4 On 12th January 2011, the Standards Committee reviewed the Code of Corporate Governance Action Plan and Self Assessment document in relation, in particular, to Principle 3 'Promoting values for the Council and demonstrating the values of good governance through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour'. The views of the Committee will be reported verbally to Council, given the timing of the meeting.
- 3.5 At the request of Members, an external assessment was undertaken on how far the Council's current processes and documentation meet the principles set out in the Local Code of Corporate Governance. Janie Barrett of SOLACE Enterprises, who sat on the joint working party that produced both versions of the CIPFA/SOLACE Code of Corporate Governance guidance, undertook the review in March 2009.
- 3.6 The review confirmed that the Council's Local Code complies in full with best practice, as set out in the national framework and guidance for the production of the Code and its contents. By identifying individuals and committees to be responsible for monitoring and reviewing the systems, process and documentation referred to in the Code and having the evidence to show that this is taking place, has greatly assisted the Council in meeting the principles set out in the Code.
- 3.7 The review went on to state that the Council has identified those areas where it wishes to improve and how these should be addressed.
- 3.8 Following the external assessment of the Council's Corporate Governance, it was identified that having all the policies and processes in place, the Council had to show how good Corporate Governance was embedded into all Council activity. This was an area looked at by the senior officer group who met on 11th November 2010, who believed that this can be achieved by developing examples of good practice. Current examples of good practice include:
- Creation, adoption and publication of a new Sustainable Community Strategy for South Derbyshire 2009-2029 by the South Derbyshire Partnership
 - Reached National Equality Framework 'Achieving' status following IDeA Peer Assessment
 - Positive external Peer Assessment of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny function
 - Risk Management Strategy was reviewed and updated. A revised corporate framework for managing risk and to embed risk within services was approved by Council ensuring that risk management has been integrated with performance
 - Implementation of the locally based system for the assessment, referral, investigation and hearing of complaints of alleged Member misconduct
 - Achieved a Level 3 for Use of Resources
 - 6 monthly review of our local Code of Corporate Governance in accordance with the CIPFA/SOLACE framework

- Establishment and approval of a Corporate Workforce Development Strategy
- Undertook Personal Development Plans with Members in conjunction with the Groups' nominated training champions
- Revised policy and procedure for our Recruitment and Selection process
- Development of a robust Action Plan to address the issues raised in the Place Survey
- Implemented the Performance Management system
- Access Strategy has been reviewed
- Implemented actions arising out of the External Review (2008/09) of internal Audit, including a more governance focused audit plan for 2010/11 and the introduction of key performance indicators

3.9 In view of the fact that corporate governance is an all-encompassing concept, Council has approved that the Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, is to have overall responsibility for implementing the Code and monitoring the Council's performance against the commitments contained within it.

3.10 It must be recognised, however, that the Code should be owned by all Members and Officers.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 None directly arising from the report.

5.0 Corporate Implications

5.1 The Code overarches all the Council's activities and compliance with it will necessarily take into account all the Council's policies and strategies in relation to these issues.

5.2 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 six core principles.

6.0 Community Implications

6.1 A key aim of the authority is community leadership, which is concerned with the style and manner in which the Council operates and how we relate to local people and partners. One important aspect included in this aim is our policies and arrangements for corporate governance.

7.0 Background Papers

- Local Code of Corporate Governance – hyperlink to Constitution
- CIPFA/SOLACE publication "*Delivery Good Governance in Local Government*".