

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE ASSESSMENT

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report seeks Member approval and comments in respect of the assessment carried out by officers in respect of the above.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 At the Council meeting held on 30 July 2002, a Local Code of Corporate Governance was adopted. The Code was based upon the guidance issued by the Chartered Institute of Public finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE).
- 2.2 The guidance recommended that all authorities carry out their own self-assessment as to how they perform against their adopted code. The outcome of that assessment is published with the final accounts.
- 2.3 The scoring suggested for the assessment is entirely subjective. However, the Council is required to produce evidence to back up its judgement.

3 THE ASSESSMENT

- 3.1 The assessment carried out by officers is attached to this report.
- 3.2 As mentioned at the meeting of Council on 30 July 2002, the authority does comply in the majority of areas. The major areas of work which need to be undertaken during the year relate to the community plan and the development of corporate risk management.
- 3.3 The Audit Commission's detailed guidance on how CPA will apply to Districts is still awaited and will be reported to Committee at the earliest opportunity. Nevertheless it is anticipated that the Council's compliance with corporate governance requirements will probably form a major element of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment that will be carried out by the Audit Commission Inspectorate. The two areas of work mentioned in 3.2 above will, therefore, need to be regarded as high priority for the immediate future.

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The resource requirement for this assessment has been officer time. Costs involved in respect of the community plan and risk management work will be reported as and when specific issues are identified.

5 RECOMMENDATION

That Members give a view on the internal assessment carried out by officers. (CD(F&ES))

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