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## **Corporate Governance Panel**

**Report of the meeting held on 25th September 2007**

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### **Matters for Information**

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#### **6. INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE - ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT**

The Panel has been acquainted with progress made against the 2006/07 Annual Audit Plan and the performance standards achieved. Members have been informed of the Internal Audit Manager's opinion on the level of assurance provided by the Council's internal control environment in terms of the effective exercise of its functions. They also discussed the rate at which agreed actions are implemented, which generally matches that of other district councils.

#### **7. RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

The Panel has been acquainted with progress made to embed risk management within the Council. Members have noted the requirements to improve the Council's current rating to level 3 against the risk management standard, one of which is to require all Members of the Panel to receive training on risk management awareness.

#### **8. CODE OF GOVERNANCE**

The Panel has adopted a revised Code of Governance. The Code complies with the new Governance in Local Government Framework published by CIPFA/SOLACE and represents current good practice.

#### **9. GOVERNANCE STATEMENT**

The Panel has approved the Statement of Assurance on Corporate Governance which summarises the corporate governance work carried out in 2006/07 and identifies matters to be addressed during 2007/08.

#### **10. APPROVAL FOR PUBLICATION OF 2006/07 ACCOUNTS**

The Panel has approved the report and accounts for the year 2006/07. Having endorsed the Council's Letter of Representation, Members have been informed by the Council's external auditor that an unqualified opinion will be provided on the accounts.

Members have been advised of the matters contained in the Action Plan to the auditor's report including those where Officers have taken a different view to that of the auditor.

C J Stephens  
Chairman