
Corporate Governance Panel

Report of the meeting held on 26th March 2008

Matters for Decision

16. CHANGES TO THE CODE OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

By reference to a report by the Head of Financial Services (a copy of which is reproduced as Appendix A hereto) and after consideration of proposed changes to the Code of Financial Management, the Panel

RECOMMEND

that the Council approve the amended Code of Financial Management as appended to the report attached.

17. TRAVEL PLAN

By reference to a report by the Head of Administration (a copy of which is reproduced as Appendix B hereto) the Panel has been acquainted with the conclusions of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Support) and Cabinet following a review of the Council's Travel Plan and proposals for changes to the Members' Allowances Scheme, which forms part of the Council's Constitution. The Panel therefore

RECOMMEND

that the Council approve recommendations (a) - (d) of the report of the Travel Plan Working Group appointed by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Service Support) as appended to the report attached.

Matters for Information

18. ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK AND ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

The Panel has endorsed the Council's assurance framework and noted the progress made to date in respect of the achievement of the Action Plan supporting the Annual Governance Statement.

19. EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORTS

(a) Data Quality Audit Report 2006/07

The Panel has been acquainted with a report on the Council's Data Quality arrangements for 2006/07 and has approved the Action Plan annexed to the report which has been devised to focus on areas designed to achieve a higher level of compliance to that already achieved by the Council.

(b) Use of Resources Report 2006/07

The Panel has been acquainted with the Council's Use of Resources Report 2006/07, in which the Council's external auditor has confirmed that the Council has consistently performed above the Audit Commission's minimum requirements. An Action Plan annexed to the report is designed to assist the Council in achieving compliance with the next level within the framework.

20. ANNUAL AUDIT AND INSPECTION LETTER

In receiving the Annual Audit and Inspection Letter, the Panel has been informed that the Council's rate of improvement in priority areas compared well with that of other District Councils. Attention was also drawn to the fact that the Council had consistently exceeded the Audit Commission's criteria for "performing well" and that views have been exchanged with the Audit Commission about the value of some Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPs).

21. RISK REGISTER UPDATE

The Panel has been acquainted with details of the high "red" risks taken from the Risk Register, the process by which the register has been compiled and how those risks are being reviewed. Future update reports will only include details of new or changed entries to the Register.

22. INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE: INTERNAL AUDIT PLAN 2008

The Panel has approved the Internal Audit and Assurance Plan for the four months period commencing 1st April 2008.

23. INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE: INTERIM PROGRESS REPORT

The Panel has been acquainted with progress by the Internal Audit Service against the Audit Plan for 2007/08 and noted the performance standards achieved.

**24. WHISTLEBLOWING:
ANNUAL REVIEW OF POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

The Panel has been informed of the outcome of the annual review of the Whistleblowing Policy and Procedure, which has concluded that no changes are required.

C J Stephens
Chairman