

Issues identified in AGS Sept 2009	Progress to date
<p>Code of Procurement</p> <p>There have been a number of occasions during the year where internal audit reviews have identified examples of breaches of the Code of Procurement. Steps will be taken to improve the level of compliance</p>	<p>Following a report to Corporate Governance Panel Sep 09, which highlighted a number of significant breaches to the Code of Procurement, an action plan was developed and approved by the Dec 09 Corporate Governance Panel. The action plan is progressing with the first 2 items delivered on time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Code of Procurement. The Head of Financial Services wrote to Heads of Service inviting comments and suggestions for improvement to the code. A revised draft of the code has been produced incorporating recent changes to procurement law, simplifying the wording and incorporating the e-marketplace. The revised draft will be presented to Corporate Governance Panel on 24 March 10. ▪ Procurement training has been re-developed into a series of smaller modular courses each focused on a key topic, e.g. EU procurement directives, and is being delivered. <p>Two further actions are underway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Procurement Strategy. A revised procurement strategy is in draft and is due to be completed in April 10. ▪ Forward Plan. The HoFS has written to all HoS seeking details of all planned spend over the tender thresholds (£30k). The forward plan will allow timely decisions on the appropriate procurement process and allocation of resources to support the Council's major requirements. This is due for completion in April 10.

ANNEX A

<p>Huntingdonshire Strategic Partnership Evaluation</p> <p>New guidance has been issued by the Audit Commission to help in the assessment of the Governance arrangements and effectiveness of the Local Strategic Partnerships. Consideration will be given to how this guidance can be implemented in conjunction with the Councils own Partnership framework</p>	<p>The Council is currently undertaking a review of partnerships across the organisation. This work looks at key information about the management and performance of a partnership and assesses its overall value. In addition, a recent audit commission report ‘Working better together’ recognises the complexities of Local Strategic partnerships and highlights the need to develop formal an informal aspects of collaboration. The Huntingdonshire Strategic Partnership regularly looks at performance against the Sustainable Community Strategy and important part of the achievement of the partnership’s vision and objectives. The audit commission guidance will help to further develop and review the effectiveness of the Strategic Partnership.</p>
<p>Audit Letter recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ maintain focus on service performance in order to improve the rate of improvement and tackle areas of comparative under performance; and ○ Develop a stronger focus on outcomes measures. 	<p>Performance reports detailing progress against objectives continue to be reported to Chief Officer management team, Overview and Scrutiny Panels and Cabinet on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>A review of targets and measures in our corporate plan “Growing Success” was undertaken with Heads of Service during January and reported to the Corporate Plan working group in February. The review also included targets and measures at divisional level with the emphasis on outcomes</p>
<p>Scrutiny Annual Report</p> <p>Following changes to Overview and Scrutiny to ensure an Overview and Scrutiny annual report reflecting their work during 2009/10 is prepared for publication</p>	<p>The Scrutiny Annual report will be produced at the end of the Municipal year and reported to Council</p>