

## Improvement Plan

(Note: the Council's Improvement Plan is updated and monitored frequently to reflect the development areas adopted through external inspection and compliance with statutory guidance.)

In progress

Completed

Subject	Area of Focus	Reference	Proposed Action	Outcome	Lead Members and Officer	Progress as at Jan 2010
Natural Resources	The Council should ensure that information and analysis about its environmental footprint is made publicly available.	Use of Resources 2007/08			Head of Environmental Services	The report will be delayed until June 2010 this will allow data to be collected up to March 2010 and comparisons between 2008/09 and 2009/10 to be made.
Governance	Procurement	Governance Assurance framework (AGS Sept 2009)	improve the level of compliance of the Code of Procurement	level of compliance improved – no breaches of the code	Head of Financial Services	See comments in Annex A attached
	Huntingdonshire Strategic Partnership Evaluation	Governance Assurance framework (AGS Sept 2009)	Consideration will be given to how the Audit Commission guidance to help in the assessment of the Governance arrangements can be implemented in conjunction with the Councils own Partnership framework	Improved partnership working	Member: Andrew Hansard and Head of People, Performance and Partnerships	See comments in Annex A attached
	Audit Letter recommendations	Governance Assurance framework (AGS Sept 2009)	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.	Improved performance and better outcome measures	Member: Andrew Hansard and Head of People, Performance and Partnerships	See comments in Annex A attached
	Scrutiny Annual Report	Governance Assurance	to ensure an Overview and Scrutiny annual		Member: Andrew	See comments in Annex A attached

## ANNEX B

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		framework (AGS Sept 2009)	report reflecting their work during 2009/10 is prepared to for publication		Hansard and Head of Democratic & Central Services	
Financial planning	Demonstrating the Outcomes from Stakeholder Engagement in Financial Planning	Use of Resources 2008/09	We have undertaken and continue to undertake consultation on the priorities for Huntingdonshire. The council will continue to do this and develop its engagement		Head of People, Performance and Partnerships and Head of Financial Services	"Voice your choice" – participatory budgeting pilots undertaken summer 2009
	Using Service Reviews to Challenge Service Delivery	Use of Resources 2008/09	The Council has embarked on a two-fold transformation programme "Balancing the budget, securing our future" this is the council's long term plan to achieving savings and efficiencies whilst still maintaining or improving essential and priority services	understanding of costs and performance and achieve efficiencies in its activities	Directors of Central Services and Commerce and Technology	Savings and efficiencies have been identified for 2010/2011 in the Financial strategy, Medium Term Plan 2011 to 2015 and 2010/2011 Budget, reported to Members in February 2010
Financial reporting	Improving the Annual Accounts Review Process	Use of Resources 2008/09	We will strengthen the processes for reviewing our financial statements prior to their approval.	financial reporting is timely, reliable and meets the needs of internal users, stakeholders and local people	Head of Financial Services	Improvements to be included in the 2009/2010 closedown programme
Financial reporting	Demonstrating External Accountability	Use of Resources 2008/09	We will publish all the information that would be included in an Annual report periodically in District Wide, the Council's magazine distributed to all households in the	Residents and stakeholders more aware via Council annual report	Head of People, Performance and Partnerships and Head of Financial	The content of an annual report is being considered . An electronic version of an annual report will be prepared in the summer of 2010 which covers the financial year

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			district. The same information will also be available to view, all in one location on the internet		Services	2009/10
Commissioning and procurement	Improving Strengthening procurement processes and contract management	Use of Resources 2008/09	Directors of Central Services and Commerce and Technology have undertaken to report back the Corporate Governance Panel on compliance with the Code and the Council has initiated improvements to the procurement process.	Compliance with the code of procurement	Directors of Central Services and Commerce and Technology	A report to Corporate Governance Panel in Dec 09 outlined an action plan to promote compliance with the procurement code. This proposal was endorsed by the panel
Use of data	Look to integrate our financial and non-financial performance reporting	Use of Resources 2008/09	An exercise by Heads of Service to breakdown their budgets by Corporate objective has been undertaken. This has been reported to Members of the Corporate Plan working group at the same time as they consider the quarterly performance reports. Further consideration will be given as to how we can integrated performance reports.	Integrated financial and performance reports	Head of Financial Services and Head of People, Performance and Partnerships	Budget split by corporate objective reported to corporate plan working group (Sept and Nov 09) along with performance data relating to corporate objectives. Further integrated budget/performance reporting being considered.

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Data quality	Spot-checking Performance Indicators	Use of Resources 2008/09	<p>Managers will be reminded of the need to spot check their data and confirm this has been done. Other spot checks will be undertaken as part of the general service or reviews by internal Audit as and when appropriate.</p> <p>The quarterly performance reports to COMT and O &amp; S and Cabinet now include a statement from the Head of Service confirming that the data has been collected in accordance with the appropriate Divisions' data measure templates</p>	Accurate, consistent data	Head of People, Performance and Partnerships	<p>H of S requested to nominate an officer to undertake spot checks. The results to be included in the February quarterly performance reports.</p> <p>From Sept 09 all quarterly reports to COMT, Overview and Scrutiny and Cabinet include a statement on the quality of the data from the appropriate Head of Service</p>
Promote and demonstrate the principles and values of good governance	Demonstrating Outcomes from Partnership arrangements and their effectiveness	Use of Resources 2008/09	District Wide will contain articles on Partnership achievements	Residents and stakeholders aware of Partnership achievements	Head of People, Performance and Partnerships	Articles were published in the winter 2008 edition of District Wide relating to LPSA partnership funding. Further articles relating to partnership achievements are planned for the January 2010 edition
Workforce planning	Long-term workforce planning linked to corporate and business planning	Use of Resources 2008/09	This is being addressed via the review of and delivery of the HR strategy.	Strategic approach to workforce planning	Head of People, Performance and Partnerships	HR strategy to Employment Panel 9 <sup>th</sup> Dec. Implementation plan put into action from Jan 2010