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# Corporate Governance Panel

## Report of the meeting held on 8th December 2010

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### Matters for Information

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**13. EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT:  
ANNUAL AUDIT LETTER 2009/10**

The Panel has been acquainted with the Council's Annual Audit Letter 2009/10 and noted the key areas for action by the Council over the 2010/11 financial year.

**14. CALCULATION OF COUNCIL TAX BASE 2011/12**

In accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) Regulations 1992 (as amended), the Panel has approved the amount calculated by the District Council as the tax base for the whole District for the year 2011/12 as 59,460. The amounts for the same year shall be for the Parishes of:-

Abbotsley	245
Abbots Ripton	130
Alconbury	555
Alconbury Weston	276
Alwalton	125
Barham & Woolley	25
Bluntisham	744
Brampton	1805
Brington & Molesworth	140
Broughton	85
Buckden	1160
Buckworth	50
Bury	607
Bythorn & Keyston	142
Catworth	141
Chesterton	58
Colne	350
Conington	73
Covington	41
Denton & Caldecote	25
Diddington	28
Earith	580
Easton	75
Ellington	232
Elton	294
Farcet	580
Fenstanton	1170

Folksworth & Washingley	345
Glatton	134
Godmanchester	2430
Grafham	237
Great & Little Gidding	122
Great Gransden	455
Great Paxton	370
Great Staughton	325
Haddon	25
Hail Weston	240
Hamerton & Steeple Gidding	52
Hemingford Abbots	330
Hemingford Grey	1155
Hilton	450
Holme	238
Holywell-cum-Needingworth	980
Houghton & Wyton	810
Huntingdon	7395
Kimbolton & Stonely	595
Kings Ripton	83
Leighton Bromswold	84
Little Paxton	1280
Morborne	11
Offord Cluny & Offord D'Arcy	505
Old Hurst	96
Old Weston	85
Perry	262
Pidley-cum-Fenton	150
Ramsey	2900
St Ives	5795
St Neots	10565
Sawtry	1730
Sibson-cum-Stibbington	210
Somersham	1385
Southoe & Midloe	160
Spaldwick	230
Stilton	785
Stow Longa	65
The Stukeleys	418
Tilbrook	110
Toseland	37
Upton & Coppingford	85
Upwood & The Raveleys	425
Warboys	1370
Waresley-cum-Tetworth	146
Water Newton	42
Winwick	38
Wistow	215
Woodhurst	152
Woodwalton	85
Wyton-on-the-Hill	415
Yaxley	2975
Yelling	142
	<u>59460</u>

**15. ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

The Panel has endorsed minor textual amendments to the Risk Management Strategy.

**16. REVIEW OF HOUSING BENEFIT FRAUD INVESTIGATION ACTIVITY AND THE COUNCIL'S WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY**

The Panel has been acquainted with the activity of the Benefits Fraud Investigation Team over the period from 2007 to 2010 and has received details of new work areas undertaken by the Team which include the collection of debts arising from benefit overpayments.

In terms of the annual review of the whistleblowing policy and guidance, the Panel has been advised that no changes are required and that 19 incidents were received through the various whistleblowing channels over the past year.

**17. REVIEW OF THE ANTI-FRAUD AND CORRUPTION STRATEGY**

The Panel was acquainted with the outcome of a review of the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy. The review has taken into account the implications for the Council of the Bribery Act 2010, which requires minor changes to be made to the strategy, Employees Code of Conduct and Code of Financial Management. Given that the alterations to the latter two Codes would require changes to be made to the Council's Constitution, the proposed amendments will be managed as part of imminent reviews of the code of conduct and the constitution which will be considered by the Panel in the spring cycle of meetings. The Panel has therefore endorsed the amendments to the two codes in principle. Additionally, Members have approved changes to the Strategy and requested Heads of Service to review and identify service areas that may be susceptible to bribery and introduce appropriate controls to minimise the opportunity for offences.

T D Sanderson  
Chairman