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# **Corporate Governance Panel**

**Report of the meeting held on 22nd May 2013**

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## **Matters for Information**

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### **1. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE PANEL - PROGRESS**

The Panel was provided with an opportunity to comment on the progress of previous decisions made by them. Members expressed concern that limited progress appeared to have been made to introduce a Corporate Guide to manage projects. The Assistant Director, Finance and Resources reassured the Panel that some work has been undertaken, including the preparation of a timeframe and establishment of a Working Group.

### **2. HOUSING NEEDS COMPLAINT: AWARD OF COMPENSATION**

Having been apprised of the circumstances which had led to a complaint to the Ombudsman regarding a homelessness matter, the Panel has approved a compensation payment of £250. The payment will be set against a debt owed to the Council by the complainant relating to a bond granted under the Rent Deposit scheme. The Panel has questioned why the Ombudsman decided in the first instance to investigate the matter rather than referring it back to the Council. The Panel was informed that the Ombudsman does have the discretion to accept complaints directly in certain circumstances, but the Panel requested that the matter be clarified.

### **3. REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY**

The outcome of a review undertaken by a Working Group established by the three Overview and Scrutiny Panels into the effectiveness of Overview and Scrutiny was noted by Members. It was reported that the Panels were generally acting effectively in terms of the discharge of their responsibilities and fulfilling their terms of reference.

In discussing the areas identified by the Working Group as requiring improvement, attention was drawn to the engagement of the public and other stakeholders. Given their disappointment that the proposed pilot Local Joint Committee had yet to be organised, the Panel has requested the Deputy Leader to update the Panel on the progress being made with the pilot scheme.

Additionally, the Panel has endorsed a recommendation that effectiveness reviews be continued and suggested that the Licensing and Protection Panel/ Licensing Committee be reviewed next.

**4. REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE**

The Panel has noted the outcome of a review of the effectiveness of the Internal Audit Service which is a requirement of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2011.

An action plan will continue to be used to address the areas of non-conformance. Members have been reassured that the matters referred to the Plan were of a minor nature and not considered significant enough to warrant inclusion in the Annual Governance Statement.

**5. WORK PROGRAMME AND TRAINING**

The Panel has noted details of their anticipated work programme in 2013/14.

E R Butler  
Chairman