

Cheltenham Borough Council
Standards Committee - 28th September 2007
Corporate governance
Report of the Borough Solicitor

1. Executive Summary and recommendation

1.1 The issue

1.1.1 The council approved a code of corporate governance in 2003 which was based on the CIPFA/SOLACE guidelines. These guidelines have recently been updated and the new document is wider ranging in its effect and seeks to embed qualitative improvements in the governance of local authorities by highlighting the fact that good governance is the result of a consistent culture right across the organisation. This can only be achieved by a coordinated effort in respect of several key strands of governance.

1.1.2 The audit committee have overall responsibility for reviewing the code and reporting to members, and aware of the impending revision to the national guidelines set up a small member working group to review our existing code and update, in light of the proposed changes to the national guidelines. Given the focus of the new document it is proposed that a member of the staff and support services committee and the standards committee also sit on this working group, so that the cultural issues (including member and officer development) and ethical issues are fully considered, and appropriate work streams brought back to these committees as necessary.

1.2 I therefore recommend that:

1.2.1 The committee nominate a member to sit on the corporate governance working group.

1.3 Summary of implications

1.3.1 Financial None arising out of this report. The review of the code may identify specific issues which will need to be fed into any budget setting process and be prioritised against other business plan activities

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1.3.2 Legal None arising out of this report

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1.3.3 Other

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1.4 Implications on corporate and community plan priorities

1.4.1 Good corporate governance supports the council in achieving its ambition to be an excellent council.

1.5 Statement on Risk

1.5.1 There are no direct risks arising from this report

Background Papers

Report Author	Quentin Baker, Borough Solicitor, 01242 264155, quentin.baker@cheltenham.gov.uk
Accountability	Cllr Hutton, cabinet member
Scrutiny Function	Economy and business improvement