

**FINAL ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT COMMITTEE
28TH JUNE 2007**

REVIEW OF THE GOVERNANCE AND REPORTING STRUCTURE

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform the Committee of the outcome of consultation on the governance and reporting structure. To recommend changes to the structure in the light of the consultation's findings.

Background

2. In September 2006 the Committee adopted a structure that clarified the council's reporting arrangements. The purpose of the structure is to put in place clear and transparent arrangements for governance and reporting so that decision making is made by the appropriate committees, that relevant committees are kept informed about issues that concern them, and that they are able to ensure that their recommendations are properly implemented.
3. The governance and reporting structure is intended to be a living document. The Committee therefore requested officers to review the structure after it had been in place for six months, and to report back at that point.

Main Considerations for the Council

4. Consultation took place in April and May 2007. Respondents were generally satisfied with the arrangements. However, they proposed several amendments to the structure to reflect the new departmental organisation. They also proposed some additions to the existing arrangements.
5. The document has been amended in the light of these responses. A copy of the amended documents, with highlighted amendments, is attached to this report.

Proposal

6. That the Committee, on behalf of the authority, adopts the amendments identified by the consultation process and identified in the attached amended structure.
7. That the Corporate Standards Manager reviews the arrangements on an annual basis, or more frequently in the event of significant changes taking place to the authority's governance structures or responsibilities.

Environmental Impact of the Proposal

8. No environmental impact has been identified.

Financial Implications

9. None has been identified.

Legal Considerations

10. The proposed amendments have been checked to ensure that they are compliant with the Local Government Act 2000 and the council's constitution. There are no other relevant legal considerations.

Stephen Gerrard
Monitoring Officer

Report author: Nina Wilton, Corporate Standards Manager

The following unpublished documents have been relied on in the preparation of this report: *None*
