

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS
TO THE EXECUTIVE
3RD MARCH 2006

Corporate Governance Report Third Quarter (Oct, Nov, Dec) 2005/06

1.0 **Introduction and Report Summary**

1.1 To receive the Corporate Governance Report for the third quarter of 2005/06.

1.2 The Contact Officer for this report is Tim Sadler, Strategic Director (01235) 540360.

2.0 **Recommendations**

The Executive is recommended to:

(a) Note the Directors' Group Corporate Governance Report for the third quarter 2005/06.

3.0 **Relationship with the Council's Vision, Strategies and Policies**

This report

- (a) relates primarily to Vision Statement.
- (b) relates to the Best Value Performance Plan, and
- (c) Complies with Corporate Planning Timetable.

4.0 **Background and Supporting Information**

4.1 The Directors' "Corporate Governance Report" for the third quarter looks at the key areas of:-

- Key issues
- CPA Improvement Action Plan monitoring
 - Corporate
 - Housing
 - Open Spaces
 - Implementing Electronic Government (IEG)
- Best Value Performance Indicators
- Local Performance Indicators linked to priorities for improvement
- Financial Information
- Key staffing data

4.2 **Key Issues**

These have been reviewed and updated

4.3 CPA Improvement Action Plans

These have been reviewed and updated.

4.4 Best Value Performance Indicators

This report contains the updated 2004/05 top and bottom quartile data which was published by the Audit Commission in January 2006 (see also agenda item 19 – Best Value Performance Indicators – Performance against Top and Bottom Quartile 2004/05 report)

Of particular note are:

BVPI 8: following the improved performance reported for the second quarter, performance declined during the third quarter

BVPI 183a: performance improved during the third quarter

BVPI 183b: performance was worse during the third quarter but is expected to improve during the final quarter

BVPI 82a: performance is expected to improve during the final quarter

BVPI 109a: performance improved during the third quarter. An improvement plan for major applications is being prepared.

BVPI 109b and c. performance continued to improve during the third quarter

4.5 Local Performance Indicators

A number of LPIs have been included in respect of two of the Council's Corporate Aims. Further indicators are being developed and will be included in 2006/7 Service Plans and the Best Value Performance Plan 2006/09

4.6 Financial Issues

See commentary attached

4.7 Staffing Issues

Turnover has reduced this quarter on average compared with last quarter, with an average of 3 people leaving per month compared to just over 4 in the last quarter.

Compared to quarter 2 average sickness has increased by 305. However, average sickness for quarter 2 was particularly low. This is probably due to the time of year as generally sickness is lower during the summer months. The following areas have more sickness per fte on average this quarter compared to last quarter. Benefits, Democratic Services, Housing and Community Safety, Leisure, Planning and Property & Estates. Service areas that have reduced their average sickness include: Contact Services, Environmental Health and Human Resources.

DIRECTORS GROUP

Background Papers: Corporate Governance Report of the Directors Group

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