

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS
TO THE EXECUTIVE
1st September 2006

Corporate Governance Report First Quarter (April, May June) 2006/07

1.0 **Introduction and Report Summary**

- 1.1 To receive the Corporate Governance Report for the first quarter of 2006/07.
- 1.2 The Contact Officer for this report is Tim Sadler, Strategic Director (01235) 540360.

2.0 **Recommendation**

That the Directors' Group Corporate Governance Report for the first quarter 2006/07 be noted.

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

This report

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

4.0 **Background and Supporting Information**

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

- Corporate Priorities
- CPA Corporate High Level Improvement Action Plan
- Best Value Performance Indicators
- Local Performance Indicators linked to priorities for improvement
- Financial Information
- Key staffing data

4.2 **Corporate Priorities**

In the first half of 2006 the Council's 6 Corporate Priorities were updated and updated Improvement plans were agreed. These were published in the Best Value Performance Plan 2006/09. An update to these 6 improvement plans to the end of the first quarter is attached.

4.3 **Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) - Corporate High Level Improvement Plan**

In July 2006 the Executive noted that a revised improvement plan had been published in the Best Value Performance Plan 2006/09. An updated version is attached.

4.4 **Best Value Performance Indicators**

Of particular note are:-

BVPI 8: % invoices paid on time

Performance improving – above target and approaching top quartile

BVPI 12: Days sick per member of staff

Substantially below target and top quartile performance in contrast to relatively high levels in the proceeding year. It will be interesting to see how this develops across the remainder of the year.

Sickness levels and performance improvement are matters being reviewed by the Scrutiny Committee.

BVPI 64: Number of vacant private sector dwellings returned into occupation

Achieved target for year in Quarter 1 due to a number of schemes coming to fruition at once.

BVPI 183a: Average length of stay in B&B (weeks)

1.85 bed and breakfast weeks. Above target and approaching top quartile.

BVPI183b: Average length of stay in Hostel (weeks)

Above target.

BVPI 76a – 79b - Benefits

Continued strong performance in Benefits Team despite some to be expected disruption due to preparation for handover to Capita on 31 July.

BVPI 109a, b, c - Planning

Major applications – above target, out of bottom quartile but minor applications and others still struggling. This is due principally to staff turnover and sickness.

4.5 Local Performance Indicators

It is too early in the year to as yet draw significant conclusions from these indicators.

4.6 Financial Issues

There are no major budgetary concerns at the end of the first quarter.

4.7 Staffing Issues

In addition to Key Staffing Data report, there is an additional comment in section 4.4 (BVPI 12) regarding sickness levels.

DIRECTORS GROUP

Background Papers: Corporate Governance Report of the Directors Group