

AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 16 JANUARY 2013

REVISED CORPORATE GOVERNANCE ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK

Report by Monitoring Officer and Head of Law and Governance

Introduction

1. The current governance framework was agreed by Audit Committee in November 2010 and set out a strategic process by which the Council receives assurance on key internal controls.
2. A new version of Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework was published by CIPFA in December 2012 and there is also a new requirement for Fire Authorities to publish an annual statement of assurance. This will sit alongside the authority's governance statement.
3. Changes to the external inspection regime, and a move to more ad hoc reporting since the previous framework was agreed also require an updated means of monitoring any governance issues arising from each inspection.

Revised Framework

4. The proposed updated corporate governance assurance framework is attached as Annex 1.
5. This maintains the existing process whereby a corporate lead officer for each key governance process provides a statement at the year end. This statement explains what systems they have in place to ensure internal control, and their assessment of the current position across the whole council, identifying areas for improvement where appropriate. Internal Audit will provide an independent assessment of compliance with corporate processes for each directorate. Directors will continue to be required to sign off certificates at year end confirming that controls are in place and/or that actions are being taken to address any weaknesses identified through this process.
6. The key responsibility of evaluating the effectiveness of the control environment remains with those charged with that corporate responsibility. Directorates are responsible for addressing any identified weaknesses.

RECOMMENDATION

7. **The Committee is RECOMMENDED to approve the revised Corporate Governance Assurance Framework.**

PETER CLARK
County Solicitor

Background papers: Nil

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