

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Corporate Governance Committee 20 December 2007
AUTHOR/S: Chief Executive / Head of Accountancy

LOCAL CODE OF GOVERNANCE

Purpose

1. To recommend to Council the adoption of a local code of governance.
2. This is a key decision to be made in the course of developing the policy framework. It is being brought to this Committee as the local code of governance is the basis of an effective system of corporate governance but it consists substantially of a consolidation of other work being carried out, mainly as part of the Improvement Plan. It has not been published in the Forward Plan.

Background

3. A report to this Committee in June identified the need to have a local code of governance in accordance with the Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework issued jointly by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers.

Considerations

4. The proposed local code is attached at **Appendix A**. It sets out the six core principles of good governance. For each core principle, there are supporting principles and, for each supporting principle, there are specific requirements for local authorities to comply with. The principles and requirements in the proposed local code have been taken verbatim from the Framework document. Many of the specific requirements overlap with the Improvement Plan and with the key lines of enquiry in the Use of Resources assessment.
5. In addition to the Framework document, a guidance note sets out the source documents or other means that may be used to demonstrate compliance with the core principles. The source documents or other means at South Cambridgeshire will need to be reviewed in order to inform an annual review of the effectiveness of the Council's governance framework. This annual review of the effectiveness of governance, together with the annual review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control, will be reported in an annual governance statement to this Committee, probably in April, so that it can be included in the Statement of Accounts due for approval in the last week of June. The annual governance statement will replace the previously considered Statement of Internal Control.
6. The process is shown in the flowchart in **Appendix B**.

Implications

7.

Financial	None
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Legal	The approval of an annual governance statement is considered to be a statutory proper practice
Staffing	The workload and its coordination with other initiatives is under consideration
Risk Management	None
Equal Opportunities	None

Effect on Annual Priorities and Corporate Objectives

8.	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Affordable Homes</td> <td rowspan="7">The adoption of a local code should assist the Council in meeting its priorities and objectives.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Customer Service</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Northstowe and other growth areas</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Quality, Accessible Services</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Village Life</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sustainability</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Partnership</td> </tr> </table>	Affordable Homes	The adoption of a local code should assist the Council in meeting its priorities and objectives.	Customer Service	Northstowe and other growth areas	Quality, Accessible Services	Village Life	Sustainability	Partnership
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Recommendations

9. To recommend to Council the adoption of the local code.

Background Papers: the following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework – CIPFA/SOLACE
Guidance note for English authorities

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