

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Corporate Governance Committee 31 March 2010
AUTHOR/S: Executive Director Corporate Services / Corporate Manager
Community & Customer Services

USE OF RESOURCES IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Purpose

1. To receive the Council's Improvement Plan in response to the areas for improvement highlighted in the Audit Commission's Annual Governance Report
2. This is not a key decision; the item is included on the agenda at the Committee's request.

Background

3. The Committee received the Annual Governance Report of the Audit Commission at its meeting in October 2009. At the request of officers that report highlighted a number of areas for improvement that the Audit Commission recommended the Council consider with a view to improving its overall score under the Use of Resources Assessment.
4. They have considered each of these recommendations and have formulated an Improvement Plan detailing their proposed response; this is set out at Appendix 1.

Considerations / Options

5. The Committee has previously considered how the Council should respond to the Use of Resources assessment in general terms. At the same time the Finance Task and Finish Group have also made recommendations that directly relate to some of the areas for improvement highlighted by the Audit Commission. The Executive Director Corporate Services and the Corporate Manager Community & Customer Services have framed the improvement plan with a view to implementing measures that can be delivered within existing resources and that are, in their view, relevant and appropriate for the Council.
6. The Committee is requested to consider the actions proposed and any additions or amendments to the plan as necessary.

Implications

7. No major implications have been identified in the framing of the improvement plan although all of the activities should have positive impacts on the Council's Corporate Governance arrangements.

8.

Financial	All of the improvement activities will be delivered from within existing resources
Legal	None identified
Staffing	All of the improvement activities will be delivered from within existing resources

Risk Management	None identified
Equal Opportunities	None identified

Consultations

9. The Audit Commission, the Portfolio Holder for Northstowe (as Executive Member with responsibility for Comprehensive Area Assessment) and those listed as responsible officers in Appendix 1 have been consulted in the drafting of the improvement plan.

Effect on Strategic Aims

10.	Commitment to being a listening council, providing first class services accessible to all.
	The improvement activities should have a positive impact on the Council's Corporate Governance arrangements
	Commitment to ensuring that South Cambridgeshire continues to be a safe and healthy place for all.
	Nothing identified by the report author
	Commitment to making South Cambridgeshire a place in which residents can feel proud to live.
	Nothing identified by the report author
	Commitment to assisting provision for local jobs for all.
	Nothing identified by the report author
	Commitment to providing a voice for rural life.
	Nothing identified by the report author

Conclusions/Summary

11. The report authors have considered the areas for improvement suggested by the Audit Commission and have set out their recommended responses at Appendix 1.

Recommendation

12. That the Use of Resources Improvement Plan, as set out at Appendix 1, be approved.

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

Annual Governance Report for South Cambridgeshire District Council dated October 2009 published by the Audit Commission

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