

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2007/08

Significant Governance Issues: Progress Update, July 2008

No.	Issue	Responsible Officer	By When	Progress
1	Poor attendance and contribution, in some instances, at partnership groups, needs to be addressed.	Assistant Chief Executive	September 2008	<p>Lead member reports on LSP and thematic groups submitted to Executive every 8 weeks.</p> <p>10 key partnerships with lead members and officers identified. Reports to Council on progress every 6 months (June and December 2008)</p>
2	More effective management of the scrutiny function is needed to ensure that energies are channelled into supporting achievement of the Council's priorities, management of performance, policy development and value for money.	Interim Deputy Chief Executive	September 2008	<p>Increased senior officer support is continuing to be provided by IDCE.</p> <p>Annual report for 2007/08 prepared, 2008/09 work programme being finalised. Protocol for O&S involvement in performance management now agreed (support provided by ACE). O&S considering how it can support issues arising from CPA report.</p> <p>Regular meetings with Leader/Deputy, CE/IDCE scheduled.</p>
3	Build on recent improvements in the promotion of equality and diversity, by ensuring that all minority groups have the opportunity to participate in local priority setting.	Assistant Chief Executive	September 2008	<p>Community Engagement & Consultation Strategy in place.</p> <p>All services now subject to Equality Impact Assessments.</p> <p>Youth Forum in place.</p>

4	Staff concerns over leadership need to be fully tackled.	Chief Executive	September 2008	<p>Staff survey (Nov 2007) highlighted some improvement in political and managerial leadership. Action plan in place to address issues raised.</p> <p>Strategic leadership improved following appointment of, and role being undertaken by, IDCE (CPA report).</p>
5	Need to ensure that action plans are robust and target setting is challenging.	Assistant Chief Executive	September 2008	<p>Service plan 'clinics' took place in May 2008.</p> <p>Targets and PI 'clinics', looking at new national indicators, scheduled for July 2008.</p>
6	Effective arrangements for dealing with asset management need to be put in place.	Chief Finance Officer	September 2008	<p>Capital Strategy and Asset Management Plan have been updated (Executive, July 2008), to be submitted to Council (August), to include property condition data now that the surveys have been completed. Budget is available to continue the process of adding Teesdale's asset information to DCC's asset management system. Budget provision also available to address maintenance and improvement works identified through the asset surveys.</p> <p>Policies now approved for dealing with asset transfers, being coordinated by officer group.</p>