

TEESDALE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report To: **AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**
29 September 2008

From: **Chief Governance Officer**

Subject: **ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2007/08**

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The first Annual Governance Statement was submitted to the Special Council Meeting on 16 June 2008, prior to submission of the Statement of Accounts for 2007/08 which was presented to Council on 30 June 2008. It is a requirement of the Accounts and Audit (Amendment) (Regulations) 2006, that the Annual Governance Statement be updated until such time as the audited accounts are submitted to Council for formal approval.
- 1.2 The updated Annual Governance Statement 2007/08 is now submitted for approval.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **It is recommended that the updated Annual Governance Statement for 2007/08 be approved.**

3.0 LINK TO CORPORATE KEY PRIORITIES/AMBITIONS

- 3.1 **Priority:** Effective corporate governance arrangements support the delivery of all of the Council's corporate priorities.
- 3.2 **Ambition:** To be a local authority which operates on the basis of sound decision making supported by effective and transparent processes.
- 3.3 **Outcome:** Improved performance, better local services and stronger community leadership.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 At the time the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) was initially produced, the Council had had its Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) and had received draft feedback which was reflected in the AGS and from which a number of significant governance issues were identified. The revised AGS, now submitted, has received some minor updating throughout and has been amended to incorporate a summary of the CPA report and the inclusion of the Areas for Improvement identified by the Audit Commission.

4.2 The schedule of significant governance issues, included in the June version, have continued to be monitored by the Audit and Governance Committee and an update report thereon has been submitted to the September meeting of the committee.

5.0 **STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS**

5.1 Financial Implications: None

5.2 Risk:

Risk	Category	Implications
Council does not ensure that effective and transparent governance arrangements are in place, and an Annual Governance Statement prepared which is compliant with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	Reputation Financial Legal	Adverse criticism, increased inspection time and likely poor performance assessment from Audit Commission and Government. Low level of public esteem.

5.3 Equality and Diversity: Good governance arrangements are necessary to ensure that the Council complies with statutory equality and diversity requirements.

5.4 Human Resources: None significant

5.5 Community Safety: None directly, although the statement at 5.3 above may also be appropriate here.

5.6 Legal Issues: Compliance with the Corporate Governance Framework is a legal requirement.

Background papers:

Delivering Good Governance in Local Authorities: Framework and Guidance Note (CIPFA/SOLACE: 2007).

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