

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CABINET – 16 AUGUST 2007

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

**CORPORATE GOVERNANCE MONITORING GROUP**

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**1. Executive Summary**

The purpose of this report is to inform members of the progress of the Corporate Governance Monitoring Group. Members are invited to note the report and make any comments on it, and to receive a further report in two months time.

**2. Progress**

- 2.1 The Group has met twice since I last reported to the Cabinet on 7 June 2007.
- 2.2 The meeting on 19 June considered progress on a number of Internal Audit Reports. Good progress was noted on the follow up to the Statement of Internal Control, and the Group learned that training had recently been delivered on the Corporate Governance Code. There had been broad compliance with the reports on gifts and hospitality and conflicts of interest, and work was in progress on gifts and hospitality in the Investment Section of the Merseyside Pension Fund. Recommendations had all been accepted. All action plans had been agreed on the Statement of Internal Control and Corporate Governance Reports.
- 2.3 The Group received a report from the Head of Legal and Member Services detailing partnerships and the assessments made by a team of officers on risk. District Audit confirmed that they believed that the format and process was the correct one. It was indicated that District Audit would wish to keep under review the general question on the reporting of significant partnerships and how they would be built into the Risk Management and Financial Reporting system.
- 2.4 A Schedule of outstanding issues produced by District Audit was considered to be extremely helpful and would be provided on a regular basis for future meetings.
- 2.5 Training on project management had commenced and each department would eventually have a person with qualification so that training could be rolled out to all relevant staff. The post implementation review of the Cheshire Lines project would now be carried out.
- 2.6 Now that the new CIPFA Code of Corporate Governance document has been released, I indicated a wish that a group be convened to draw together the threads of corporate governance. This group would ensure the collection of policies, practices and procedures subject to which the Authority is run are drawn together and made easily accessible to all relevant staff. Consideration

would then need to be given as to the appropriate level of training and refresher training for all concerned.

- 2.7 The meeting on 17 July 2007 considered a document produced by Internal Audit on policy and procedures awareness in response to the discussion at the previous meeting. The document was linked to the six core principles contained in the CIPFA/Solace document "Delivering Good Governance".
- 2.8 The meeting also considered a District Audit report entitled "Review of Electrical Maintenance Contract Arrangements" and agreed the action plan.

3. **Financial and Staffing Implications**

There are none arising from this report.

4. **Equal Opportunity Implications**

There are none arising from this report.

5. **Human Right Implications**

There are none arising from this report.

6. **Local Agenda 21 Implications**

There are none arising from this report.

7. **Community Safety Implications**

There are none arising from this report.

8. **Planning Implications**

There are none arising from this report.

9. **Local Member Support Implications**

There are none arising from this report.

10. **Recommendations**

That

- (1) the report be considered and its contents and the actions taken be commented upon.;
- (2) a further report be received in two months time.

**STEPHEN MADDOX**

Chief Executive