

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CABINET

13 OCTOBER 2011

SUBJECT:	CORPORATE GOVERNANCE
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	COUNCILLOR STEVE FOULKES
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The proposed initial report, which will be considered at the first meeting of the Cabinet Committee, is appended for noting.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Cabinet notes the initial report (appended) which will be considered at the first meeting of the Cabinet Committee, set up by Cabinet on 22 September 2011 to drive forward changes in the way the Council is run.

3.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Cabinet Committee was set up to drive forward changes in the way Council is run, following a recent independent report (by AKA Ltd, the trading name of Anna Klonowski Associates Limited) which criticised the Corporate Governance of the Council. The proposed initial report to the Cabinet Committee is appended and sets out the issues which the committee needs to address.
- 3.2 The Terms of Reference include the need to report “to Cabinet and/or full Council with feedback reports and/or recommendations as appropriate”.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 AKA were engaged by the former Leader of the Council to undertake an independent review of the Council’s response to claims made by Mr Martin Morton. AKA produced a Supplemental Report entitled ‘Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council’s Corporate Governance Arrangements: Refresh and Renew’ (The Corporate Governance Report) which summarises organisational weaknesses which the Council has failed to address.

- 4.2 Cabinet considered the report on 22 September 2011 and resolved to accept the criticisms unreservedly and the recommendations designed to help the Council move forward.
- 4.3 Cabinet resolved to establish a time limited Cabinet Committee [The Corporate Governance Committee] tasked with driving forward the changes which need to be made in the way the Council is managed and in the organisational culture. The first meeting of the Committee is to be “as soon as is practicable in October”, and it is anticipated that its work will be concluded by 31 March 2012.
- 4.4 The proposed initial report to the Corporate Governance Committee is appended.
- 4.5 Cabinet also noted that it believed that the issues raised in The Corporate Governance Report should transcend party politics and that the Leader would “be seeking to discuss with both opposition party leaders opportunities for all three parties to work together to help resolve the issues raised”. To this end, Anna Klowski, and all three parties’ leaders and deputy leaders will be meeting together on 12 October 2011. All members of the Council have been invited to a presentation from Anna Klowski on 27 October 2011.

5.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 5.1 Failure to identify, agree and implement a comprehensive programme to address issues will mean that the deadline for implementation identified in the independent review (April 2012) will not be met.

6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 6.1 None: the report seeks to progress the Cabinet resolution of 22 September 2011.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 None: the report seeks to progress the Cabinet resolution of 22 September 2011.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

- 8.1 The objective is to improve corporate governance: this underpins how the Council engages with the community.

9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL, IT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

9.1 None directly arising from this report, although there may be resource implications of decisions made by the Cabinet Committee.

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Until the existing legislation is repealed, the Council could be subject to an external corporate governance inspection under Section 10 of the Local Government Act 1999.

11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Equalities is an area of corporate governance weakness identified by AKA.

12.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

12.1 None.

13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

13.1 None.

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REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY

Council Meeting	Date
Cabinet	22 September 2011