

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

8 FEBRUARY 2012

SUBJECT:	COMPREHENSIVE WORK PROGRAMME PROGRESS REPORT
WARD/S AFFECTED	ALL
REPORT OF:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	COUNCILLOR STEVE FOULKES
KEY DECISION:	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report updates Members on progress with the delivery of the comprehensive work programme to improve corporate governance. It highlights progress against the 10 Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOE) approved by Corporate Governance Committee on 16 November 2011. It also updates Members on progress with the on going cultural change programme and the resultant communications activities.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That Members note the contents of this report and its various appendices as well as the progress made by the Corporate Governance Improvement Team.

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Given the scope of activity being taken forward by the Council's Corporate Governance Improvement Team, the committee has requested that regular reports are provided to illustrate progress in all aspects of this work.

4.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

Background

- 4.1 In response to the Anna Klonowski supplemental report to Cabinet on 22 September entitled '*Wirral Borough Council's Corporate Governance Arrangements: Refresh and Renew*', the Council has developed a comprehensive work programme to address a range of priority areas of improvement in relation to corporate governance.

- 4.2 A further report by Anna Klonowski, entitled *'Improving Corporate Governance in Wirral'*, presented to Committee on 7 December 2011, sets out a series of activities the Council should undertake to progress a cultural change programme. The report proposes a series of critical milestones against a timetable as a means for the Council to progress this as a matter of urgency.

5.0 Update on Progress

Cultural Change and resultant Communications

- 5.1 Since the last progress report to January 18 Cabinet Committee, further developments have been made with regard to the cultural change milestones proposed by Anna Klonowski. An updated status report is included in Appendix 1 to illustrate this progress.
- 5.2 A series of 11 Destination Excellence events were held on 12 and 13 January with over 4,000 Council staff attending. These were delivered to share the vision and values of the draft Corporate Plan. They also provided the opportunity to inform staff what needs to be done to achieve this vision. Just over 1,000 staff completed feedback forms at these events. A summary of the main themes of this will be posted on the Council's intranet.
- 5.3 A number of channels have also been launched for staff to raise any of their concerns about corporate governance. These include the opportunity to book a session for a one to one meeting with Cabinet Members and the ability to raise issues through a secure email address.
- 5.4 A staff questionnaire was also launched on 16 January with on-line; paper versions were also made available to ensure that all members of staff have the opportunity to participate. The closing date for this is 30 January and the results of this will be made available as soon and will be formally reported to this committee at the next meeting. These results will also be used to inform a series of staff focus groups starting in February which will inform the emerging cultural change programme.
- 5.5 Progress has also been made in relation to engaging with external partners. The corporate governance work taking place across the Council was raised at the last LSP meeting as part of a wider review of partnership working. A range of meetings will now take place with thematic partnerships in February at which partners will be requested to provide feedback on a range of issues relating to corporate governance. This work will inform the review of a number of the KLOEs and also the cultural change programme, the Member development programme and the proposed improvement framework.

- 5.6 Overall the cultural development and communications activity is on schedule with Anna Klonowski's proposed milestones and timetable as illustrated in Appendix 1.

Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOE)

- 5.7 Work has continued with all KLOEs; it is expected that all products will be delivered within the agreed project timescales. A report illustrating progress for each individual KLOE is included in Appendix 2.
- 5.8 At this stage, only KLOE 4 (Review of Internal Audit) continues to be assessed as amber. A procurement exercise is underway to commission external support for this review. The outcome of which is exempt and is reported elsewhere on this agenda. Once the commission is awarded it is anticipated that this KLOE will be assessed as green.
- 5.9 An inventory of the key programme outputs and products from all 10 KLOE has now been completed and features as an appendix in the Future Corporate Governance Improvement Framework report also included on this agenda.

6.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 6.1 A Corporate Governance Risk Register has been developed and is being reviewed on a weekly basis by the Corporate Governance Improvement Team. The risk register as at 25/01/2012 is included in Appendix 3.
- 6.2 KLOE leads are responsible for identifying and managing risks within each KLOE. Any key risks are reported to the Corporate Governance Improvement Team. These escalated risks are included within the dashboards at appendix 2.

7.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 7.1 None: the programme addresses issues raised in the Corporate Governance Report.

8.0 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 A Members training needs survey has been completed in connection with KLOE 10.
- 8.2 A questionnaire on corporate governance has been distributed to all Council staff in January. The findings of this work will be published as soon as possible and reported to the next Cabinet Committee.

9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; STAFFING; ASSETS

- 9.1 There are no resource implications arising from this report.

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

11.1 KLOE 8 involves a detailed review of equalities and the steps the Council needs to take to comply with the new equality duty effective from 11th April 2011.

12.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

12.1 None.

13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

13.1 None.

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Appendices: **1 AKA Proposed Cultural Change Milestones**
 2 KLOE Progress Report
 3 Corporate Governance Programme Risk Register

SUBJECT HISTORY (last three years)

Council Meeting	Date
Cabinet	22 September 2011
Cabinet	13 October 2011
Cabinet Committee	26 October 2011
Cabinet Committee	16 November 2011
Cabinet Committee	7 December 2011
Cabinet Committee	18 January 2012