

# CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

## Governance and Constitution Committee

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**Date of meeting:** 19 November 2009  
**Report of:** Head of Internal Audit & Compliance and Borough Solicitor  
**Title:** Code of Corporate Governance

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### **1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to gain approval of the attached Code of Corporate Governance. This has been discussed at Corporate Management Team and with the Cabinet.

### **2.0 Recommendation**

- 2.1 That the attached Code of Corporate Governance be adopted by the authority and used as a basis for self-assessment, continuous improvement and as a contributor to producing the Annual Corporate Governance Statement.

### **3.0 Reasons for Recommendation**

- 3.1 To ensure that the Council has a proper framework and arrangements in place for Corporate Governance in line with best practice.

### **4.0 Background**

- 4.1 Each local authority operates through a governance framework. This is an interrelated system that brings together an underlying set of legislative requirements, governance principles and management processes.
- 4.2 In 2007, CIPFA/SOLACE produced a framework document "Delivering Good Governance in Local Authorities." This is intended to be used as best practice for developing and maintaining a locally-adopted code of governance.
- 4.3 The attached document is a suggested Code of Corporate Governance for Cheshire East. This has been developed by the Corporate Governance Group and is based on the six principles of Good Governance.

### **5.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs**

- 5.1 None.

### **6.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond**

- 6.1 There will be a need to make staff aware of the code and to review the effectiveness of the Corporate Governance arrangements. Some training costs and staff resources are necessary to develop the framework and this will be

coordinated by the Corporate Governance Group.

## **7.0 Legal Implications**

7.1 The local code supports the legal processes of the Council.

## **8.0 Risk Assessment**

8.1 Adoption of the code assists the overall response to a number of risks relating to adherence to good governance standards and the need to demonstrate effective governance.

## **9.0 Training**

9.1 There are a number of areas of training required to assist continuous improvement and the development of ethical standards and behaviours. A programme of ethics training for Members is being planned for February 2009.

### ***For further information:***

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### ***Background Documents:***

Delivering Good Governance in Local authorities CIPFA/SOLACE 2007