

TAUNTON DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE 18TH DECEMBER 2006

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR (SA)

This matter is the responsibility of Councillor Williams (Leader of the Council)

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE PILOT - EXTERNAL AUDIT ARRANGEMENTS

Executive Summary

This report requests the Corporate Governance Committee to support this Councils involvement in pilot corporate governance review arrangements with the Audit Commission.

1. Background

- 1.1 Corporate Governance is the framework of accountability, to users, stakeholders, and the wider community, within which organisations take decisions and lead and control their functions to achieve their objectives. The effectiveness of corporate governance arrangements has a significant impact on how well an organisation meets its aims.

2. Audit Commission Pilot

- 2.1 The Audit Commission are developing new arrangements for corporate governance inspections in local authorities. The new arrangements are likely to be finalised early next year. Meantime, the audit commission are "piloting" their new arrangements in several Councils to help them refine their methodology and key lines of enquiry.

3. Impact on Taunton Deane Borough Council

- 3.1 The Audit Commission have approached this Council and requested that we assist in this pilot exercise.
- 3.2 All members and senior managers will be requested to complete a questionnaire on governance matters. The results will help identify areas where more attention is needed at Taunton Deane – whether that is by further training, issuing clearer guidance, or rewriting our protocols.
- 3.3 The resultant action plan (areas for improvement) will assist greatly in the preparation of a local code of corporate governance – a task that has been outstanding for some time. The results will be reported back to this Corporate Governance Committee early in 2007.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 The corporate Governance Committee is requested to support the pilot corporate governance review arrangements with the audit commission.

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