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## Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Governance)

### Corporate Governance and Audit Committee

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> April 2009

### Subject: Standards Committee and Corporate Governance and Audit Committee Terms of Reference

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#### Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted  
(referred to in report)

#### Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

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## 1.0 Purpose Of This Report

- 1.1 To inform Members of the revised Terms of Reference for the Standards Committee and Corporate Governance and Audit Committee, as detailed at Appendix 1 to this report.

## 2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 Amendments to the Terms of Reference of the Standards Committee and the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee were approved by full Council at its meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2009. As this is the first meeting of the Committee since the revisions were approved, the current Terms of Reference are being presented to Members for their information.

## 3.0 Main Issues

- 3.1 At its meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2009, General Purposes Committee resolved to recommend that full Council amend the Terms of Reference of the Standards Committee and the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee as set out in Appendix 1 to this report. Full Council approved this recommendation at its meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2009.
- 3.2 The amendments allow the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee to make representations (on behalf of the Council) to external agencies about matters relating to conduct. As Member and officer conduct are an element of corporate governance, the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee was considered the most appropriate Committee to undertake this function. The amendments to the Standards Committee's Terms of Reference allow the Committee to make recommendations to the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee where

representations are to be made on behalf of the Council, and clarify that the Committee can make representations on its own behalf.

#### **4.0 Implications For Council Policy And Governance**

4.1 The Standards Committee and Corporate Governance and Audit Committee arrangements have a key role in the Council's governance arrangements. The amendment of their Terms of Reference will enable enhanced Member engagement in the responses to consultation documents.

#### **5.0 Legal And Resource Implications**

5.1 There are no legal or resource implications arising from this report.

#### **6.0 Conclusions**

6.1 The recently revised Terms of Reference for the Standards Committee and Corporate Governance and Audit Committee, as agreed by full Council, are appended to the report for Members' information.

#### **7.0 Recommendations**

7.1 Members are asked to note the revised Terms of Reference for the Standards Committee and Corporate Governance and Audit Committee as set out in Appendix 1 to this report.

#### Background Documents

Report to full Council, 'Amendments to the Constitution', 25<sup>th</sup> February 2009

Minutes of full Council meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2009