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## Report of the Director of Legal and Democratic Services

### Corporate Governance and Audit Committee

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> November 2006

Subject: Progress Against the Corporate Governance Statement Action Plan

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**Electoral Wards Affected:**

N/A

**Specific Implications For:**

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

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### 1.0 Purpose Of This Report

1.1 To update Members on the progress that the Authority has made against the Corporate Governance Statement Action Plan.

### 2.0 Background Information

2.1 The Committee approved the Corporate Governance Statement for 2006 at its meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2006.

2.2 The Corporate Governance Statement is an audited public statement on the adequacy of the Council's Governance arrangements. Part four of the Statement details the programme of improvement for significant control issues. Based on the areas of improvement detailed in this section, and on any incomplete actions from the previous year, officers develop the Corporate Governance Statement Action Plan. This report will present to Members the Action Plan, which is attached at appendix one.

### 3.0 Main Issues

3.1 The Action Plan is separated into a number of key areas:

- Consultation and Engagement
- Compliance with Laws and Regulations
- Having Clear Responsibilities and Arrangements for Accountability

- Risk Management
- Good Conduct and Behaviour of Officers
- Informed Transparent Decision Making
- Financial Management
- General Awareness and Training

3.2 The Action Plan details who is responsible for each action, what progress has been made against the action and a date for completion.

3.3 Members are referred, therefore, to the Action Plan itself for detail regarding what progress has been made against each action. Members will also note that at item 9 on this agenda is an update report on internal audit which provides more detail regarding the progress made against actions in this area.

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

4.1 The Corporate Governance Statement is a core element of the Council's corporate governance arrangements. Ensuring that the programme for improvement is implemented will strengthen the Council's Corporate Governance arrangements.

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

5.1 There are no legal and resource implications.

#### **6.0 Recommendations**

6.1 Members are recommended to note the report and the attached Corporate Governance Statement Action Plan.