

**MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL
REPORT FOR RESOLUTION**

COMMITTEE: Standards Committee
DATE: 22 June 2009
SUBJECT: Draft Revised Code of Corporate Governance
REPORT OF: The City Solicitor

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To inform the Standards Committee of the proposed revisions to the Council's Code of Corporate Governance and seek their comments.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Standards Committee is asked to consider the attached revised Code of Corporate Governance set out at Appendix A to this report and provide their comments, particularly in relation to the work of the Standards Committee.

FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES FOR REVENUE BUDGET:

None.

FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES FOR CAPITAL BUDGET:

None.

WARDS AFFECTED:

All.

IMPLICATIONS FOR:

Antipoverty	Equal Opportunities	Environment	Employment
No	No	No	No

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

Report to the Standards Committee on 23 June 2008

Background

1. The City Council is required to adopt a Code of Corporate Governance (the **Code**). The Code is a public statement setting out the how the City Council will meet its commitment to have in place culture, values, systems and processes to ensure it operates effectively and achieves its objectives. The Council measures its performance against the Code in the Annual Governance Statement (**AGS**) published with the Council's annual accounts.
2. On 23 June 2008, the Standards Committee considered a report of the City Solicitor containing a draft Code and draft 2008 AGS. The City Council adopted the Code on 9 July 2008.
3. A small officer working group was established to oversee the preparation of the 2009 AGS led by the Head of Financial Management and the Interim Head of Finance (Corporate and Strategic). As part of the work programme, the group has reviewed the Code and a draft revised Code is attached for comment.

The draft revised Code

4. The Code sets out the way in which the Council will meet the following six key principles of corporate governance:
 - (i) focusing on the Council's purpose and community needs;
 - (ii) having clear responsibilities and arrangements for accountability;
 - (iii) good conduct and behaviour;
 - (iv) taking informed and transparent decisions which are subject to effective scrutiny and risk management;
 - (v) developing the capacity and capability of members and officers to be effective; and
 - (vi) engaging with local people and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability.
5. The Code follows the CIPFA/SOLACE framework, tailored to reflect Manchester's values and the arrangements that the Council has in place to meet the six key principles listed above.
6. The principal proposed amendments are shown in red on the attached draft. In summary:
 - (i) the Code has been more clearly structured to make it easier to read and to reference; and
 - (ii) the Code has clearer links between the six key principles and the Council's policies, documents and procedures which demonstrate how the key

principles are put into practice. Wherever possible weblinks to the Council's internet site have been provided to assist public access to the policies, documents and procedures referred to in the Code.

7. The proposed programme for adoption of the draft revised Code is as follows:

Name	Date of Meeting
Standards Committee	Monday 22 June 2009
Audit Committee	Thursday 25 June 2009
Council	Wednesday 8 July 2009

8. The Standards Committee is asked to provide any comments regarding the draft revised Code, particularly in relation to the work of the Standards Committee.