

REPORT TO CABINET

REPORT OF: Chief Executive

REPORT NO.: CEX386

DATE: 11 February 2008

TITLE:	Draft Code of Corporate Governance	
COUNCIL AIMS/PORTFOLIO HOLDER NAME AND DESIGNATION:	Corporate Governance, Councillor Linda Neal, Leader of the Council	
CORPORATE PRIORITY:	All	
CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS:	None	
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT IMPLICATIONS:	This report is available via the local democracy link on the council's website www.southkesteven.gov.uk	
INITIAL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT	Carried out and appended to report?	Full impact assessment required?
	Not Applicable	No
BACKGROUND PAPERS:	None	

1. INTRODUCTION

Under the Council's Statement of Internal Control, the authority is committed to the preparation of a Code of Corporate Governance. This Code is also a requirement under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2006 which the authority will need to meet in April of this year.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet give their views on the content of the Draft Code of Corporate Governance.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

In preparing the Draft Code I have taken cognisance of the CIPFA/SOLACE framework which has been developed as a result of the Langlands Commission 2004.

The framework sets out 6 principles of Corporate Governance and I have reflected these within our draft Code however I have adopted the specific commitments under each principle to reflect the circumstances of the Council.

4. COMMENTS OF SECTION 151 OFFICER

Governance arrangements are vitally important to all tax payers and residents. Good governance is important to all involved in local government. Good governance leads to good management, good performance, good stewardship of public money, good public engagement and ultimately good outcomes for residents and service users.

I have been consulted throughout the process of preparing our action plan and Code of Governance and believe that they will provide a framework to promote the principles of good governance. The Audit and Governance Committee, being those charged with Governance, will need to review the Council's progress against the delivery of the action plan on an ongoing basis and report any material issues to Council

5. COMMENTS OF MONITORING OFFICER

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted throughout the process of producing the action plan and code. Such a code is essential to ensure the principles of good governance are recognised and followed.

Comprehensive Area Assessment will require the promotion and maintenance of high ethical standards. The introduction of the Code of Corporate Governance will assist with that.

The draft Code has been developed in accordance with guidance issued by CIPFA and SOLACE on the delivery of good governance in Local Government.

6. CONCLUSION/SUMMARY

The Code is presented to Cabinet for consultation. It will then be presented to Council for formal adoption.

For information, the full Corporate Governance Framework that we are required to have in place from April of this year also includes a Governance Statement which will include the detail, responsibility, level of assurance, description of our Governance Framework, description of Framework to maintain the effectiveness of these arrangements and an action plan. This Statement is required to be signed by the Leader and myself. Approval of the Statement will be undertaken by the Governance and Audit Committee in accordance with their delegated authority when they consider the Accounts at their meeting in June however it is my intention to present the full Statement to full Council in April so that they can be consulted on it.

7. CONTACT OFFICER

Duncan Kerr
Chief Executive