

Open Report on behalf of Executive Director, Performance and Governance

Report to:	Audit Committee
Date:	26 April 2011
Subject:	Maintaining Good Governance in the challenging times ahead

Summary:

One of the key roles of the Audit Committee is to have oversight on the effectiveness of the Councils governance and internal control environment.

This report provides an opportunity for the Committee to comment on the proposed audit of the Councils Governance Framework.

Recommendation(s):

Consider the contents of this report and feedback any comments the Committee may on the scope of the proposed review.

Background

1. The people of Lincolnshire need to have confidence in the way we work, we need to show high standards in public life. It's about how we do business – it's about good governance.
2. We all know that there will be tough times ahead as we move to a new era of delivering public services to the people of Lincolnshire. During this time there is no doubt that our governance structures and processes will be tested and may need changing.
3. As part of the internal audit plan for 2011/12 we propose to review how our current governance framework is operating. The scope of the audit has been agreed with the Councils Governance Group, which includes the Chairman of the Audit Committee, Executive Director – Performance and Governance, Section 151 Officer, Head of Audit and Risk Management and a Directorate Representative.
4. Given that one of its key roles is to monitor the development and operation of the Councils Governance Framework the scope of the review is attached in Appendix A for information and comment.

5. The outcome of the audit will be reported to the Committee as part of its normal work plan.

Conclusion

The Council has strong governance arrangements and structures in place. The outcome of this audit will provide assurance that these are fit for purpose and working as intended.

It will also help identify any improvements or changes needed in light of the current environment.

Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

Not applicable

Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Internal Audit Scoping Document

Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Lucy Pledge, who can be contacted on 01522 553692 or lucy.pledge@lincolnshire.gov.uk.