



Ryedale District Council

REPORT TO: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

DATE: Thursday 3 July 2008

REPORTING OFFICER: Phil Hancock
Performance Manager

SUBJECT: Monitoring of Council Improvement Plan

WARDS AFFECTED: All

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform Members on progress on the Council Improvement Plan.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. **That the report is received and the areas of concern highlighted below are noted and the actions to address them approved;**

3.0 REPORT

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has a responsibility to review and assess the Council's overall performance and to make recommendations to the Policy and Resources Committee and/or to Full Council.

The monitoring report is presented in the format of the Local Code of Corporate Governance enabling Members to consider how well the Council is delivering against this important framework. The Improvement Plan has been updated in response to recent audit and inspection and other reports.

The full update on progress against the Improvement Plan is shown in a separate annex to this report (Annex A) available on the Council's website. It highlights in **bold** areas of potential concern.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

There are a number of areas of potential concern arising from this report. Action to address these areas continues and is set out below:

1. it has been recognised that governance issues require a wider review rather than focusing solely on the Local Code of Corporate Governance. As such a comprehensive review of the Council Constitution has been commissioned which will pick up some of the detail included in this improvement action. The Members request for a user friendly summary of the Constitution must await the outcome of this review of the Constitution;
2. a decision is still required on whether to proceed with a new citizens panel and/or state of the district debate. A report will be brought to a future Policy and Resources Committee following an analysis of the duty to involve communities announced by the Government;
3. provision of further training on risk management to all Members is to be arranged;
4. a draft of the new Health and Safety Policy has been developed. Training on the final policy will follow approval and adoption;
5. an interim approach to staff development reviews is in place pending the development of a new approach;
6. a response to the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007 is in progress with training arranged for managers;
7. desktop testing of the Council's Business Continuity Plan (following further officer training and external review) is to take place prior to adoption;
8. partnership risk registers for Community Leisure Ltd and for other significant partnerships along with their governance arrangements need to be reviewed and reported

Background Papers:

Annex A and B available on the website.

OFFICER CONTACT:

Please contact Phil Hancock, Performance Manager, if you require any further information on the contents of this report. The officer can be contacted at Ryedale House, Malton on 01653 600666 x296 or e-mail phil.hancock@ryedale.gov.uk.