

Appendix 2

Response to consultation on the revised CIPFA / SOLACE Framework for Delivering Good Governance in Local Government

The CIPFA / SOLACE joint working group on good governance in local government are seeking views on the draft Framework. In particular we would welcome comments on the following:

1. Would this Framework Good Governance in Local Government assist you in developing and modernising your own local code of governance/governance arrangements?

Yes, this will be a useful tool for reviewing existing and proposed governance arrangements.

2. Would this draft Framework assist you in establishing governance arrangements for collaborative working (alternative delivery vehicles, partnerships etc.) ?

Yes, this will be a useful tool for reviewing existing and proposed governance arrangements for collaborative working.

3. Are there any parts of the Framework that you would find difficult to follow/comply with?

No, the Framework is generally a good fit with the Council's existing arrangements.

4. Have we got the terminology right, with particular reference to collaborative working? If not, how could it be improved?

The terminology is right in that it appears flexible enough to accommodate a wide variety of collaborative working platforms.

5. Principle E looks at the relationship between members and officers. Have we got the tone and balance right? If not, how could it be improved?

The Council agrees that it is important that the Framework emphasises the need for authorities to build constructive and appropriate relationships between members and officers setting out their respective roles and responsibilities clearly. The tone and balance are right.

6. Is any further guidance required with regard to the development of a local code?

No

7. What further guidance is required with regard to the preparation of the annual governance statement?

None

8. Are there any other aspects of governance that are not in the draft Framework which you believe should be addressed?

No

9. How might the Framework be improved?

We have no suggestions for improvement given that we agree that local government must continue to develop and shape its own approach to governance in the current environment and believe that the principles on which the draft Framework is based are sound.

10. Are there any other issues or areas that are not in the draft Framework which you believe should be addressed in the guidance note?

No

11. It is envisaged that the revised Framework would apply from the financial year 2015/2016. Please could you let us know if you have any concerns regarding the proposed timetable?

Given the likely timescale for finalisation of the Framework and guidance we believe it should apply from 2016/17.