

**REPORT FOR: Governance, Audit and
Risk Management
Committee**

Date of Meeting: 29 June 2010

Subject: INFORMATION REPORT –
Governance Update Report

Responsible Officer: Myfanwy Barrett, Corporate Director of
Finance

Exempt: No

Enclosures: None

Section 1 – Summary

This report provides an update on governance for Harrow Council required to meet the requirements of CIPFA/SOLACE guidance and good corporate governance.

FOR INFORMATION

Section 2 – Report

Management Assurance Exercise

- 2.1 The 2009/10 Management Assurance Exercise was launched on 8th March 2010 with responses from 3rd tier managers being due by 6th April 2010. A poorer response rate than anticipated has led to further stages of the exercise being delayed. However all responses have now been received and these were incorporated into Directorate Assurance Statements of which all but one has been signed off by the relevant Corporate Director. Once this has been received the Corporate Statement will be finalised and signed off by the Chief Executive and a report highlighting the results of the exercise will be presented to the next GARM Committee Meeting.

The Annual Governance Review

- 2.2 The annual governance review is well underway with the completion of the AGS Evidence table and collection of supporting evidence almost complete. The next stage is the gap analysis to identify any gaps in the Council's governance arrangements which will be used to develop an action plan to feed in to the Annual Governance Statement.
- 2.3 The 2008/09 AGS Action Plan is also in the process of being followed-up to establish the extent of the implementation of the agreed recommendations.

Section 3 – Further Information

- 2.4 The results of the Management Assurance Exercise and the Annual Governance Review will be fed into the Annual Governance Statement to be reported to GARM in September.

Section 4 – Financial Implications

- 2.5 None.

Section 5 – Corporate Priorities

- 2.6 Good governance impacts on and is imperative for the success of all corporate priorities:
- Deliver cleaner and safer streets
 - Improve support for vulnerable people
 - Build stronger communities

Name: Myfanwy Barrett



Chief Financial Officer

Date: 17 June 2010

Section 6 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Susan Dixon, Service Manager, Internal Audit
Tel: 020 8424 1420

Background Papers: None