

<i>COMMITTEE</i>	STANDARDS COMMITTEE
<i>DATE</i>	TUESDAY, 16 MARCH 2004
<i>TITLE OF REPORT</i>	CIPFA/SOLACE CODE OF GOVERNANCE
<i>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER</i>	Mark Bowen, assistant director, legal and contract services

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 For the committee to consider its role in monitoring the operation of the CIPFA/SOLACE Code of Governance at Medway.

2 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 That the Monitoring Officer bring an annual report to the Standards Committee on compliance with the CIPFA/SOLACE Code of Governance at Medway.

3 DECISION ISSUES

3.1 The constitution gives the Standards Committee a leading role in ensuring high standards of conduct and governance at Medway.

4 BACKGROUND

4.1 The Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers (SOLACE) has collaborated with CIPFA to publish a framework for corporate governance entitled "Corporate Governance in Local Government – A Keystone for Community Governance." The Code is not mandatory but is regarded as good practice and demonstrating compliance with it is a key indicator in showing best practice at Medway.

4.2 The framework within the Code identifies the principles which should underpin the governance of local authorities as being:

- Openness and inclusivity
- Integrity
- Accountability

4.3 Within the above the following key principles of corporate governance need to be reflected in all dimensions of the council's business:

- Community focus
- Service delivery arrangements
- Structures and procedures
- Risk management and internal control
- Standards of conduct

4.4 Medway Council adopted the CIPFA/SOLACE Code of Governance at the council meeting on 4 December 2003 and a copy of the adopted code is appended to this report.

4.5 Given the role set for the Standards Committee in the constitution in the promotion and maintenance of high standards within the council, the committee on the face of it has an obvious role in supporting the council in securing compliance with the CIPFA/SOLACE code. This is of course aided by the facility of having the independent members contribute to the analysis of compliance.

5 LEGAL AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. The key legal implications are set out in the body of the report.