TEMPLATE FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE CHECKLIST

The Local Code	Officer(s)	Source documents or other	Comments/plans for improvement
Provision	responsible	evidence	
			or the Local Area
Develop and promote the Council's Purpose and Vision	Chief Executive	Community plan 2007-10 Annual report 2008 reconfirmed council priorities Local Area Agreement 2008 - 11 Comprehensive Performance Agreement Local Public Service Agreement 2006-9 Excellence and Innovation Scheme Customer First Communications Strategy Council Plan	The community strategy is being renewed in 2009/10 to run from 2010-26 in line with the LDF. It will be signed off by the council and LSP by April 2010. For 2009-12 a new outcome focused council plan has been developed which, as part of regeneration inspection feedback, was praised by the Audit Commission Officers are of the opinion that appropriate arrangements are in place
Regularly review the Council' local area and its impact on the governance arrangement:	Chief Executive	Code of Corporate Governance LSP review of governance arrangements 2008/9 Development events LSP board members and partners and O&S members Internal Audit report of governance arrangements	Internal Audit report on Corporate Governance to be considered by Corporate Management Team Officers are of the opinion that appropriate arrangements are in place
Ensure partnerships are underpinned by a common vision of their work that is understood and agreed by all parties	Chief Executive	LAA 2008-11 LSP Plenary events Childrens Trust arrangements	The community strategy is being renewed in 2009/10 to run from 2010-26 in line with the LDF. It will be signed off by the council and LSP by April 2010. Officers are of the opinion that appropriate arrangements are in place given resources available
Publish an annual report on a timely basis to communicate the Council's activities and achievements, its financial position and performance	Chief Executive	Annual report 2007/8 and 2008/9	The annual report was agreed by cabinet on 23 June 2009. The presentation of financial information within it has been significantly revised as result of stakeholder feedback. Officers are of the opinion that various information

				is available, but accept key information is not summarised in a single document
•	Decide how the quality of service for users is to be measured and make sure that the information needed to review service quality is effectively and regularly reviewed	Chief Executive	Council plan Medium-term financial plan Quarterly monitoring reports to members service plans User Group consultation	Council plan contains outcome measures of success, including customer perceptions. Service plans have been enhanced to include mechanisms for tracking quality from a user perspective Officers are of the opinion that appropriate arrangements are in place given resources available
•	Put in place effective arrangements to identify and deal with failure in service delivery	Chief Ex Directors AD (Democracy & Governance) Monitoring Officer AD (Partnerships & Performance)	Complaints procedure Business continuity plans Reporting complaints Overview and Scrutiny Committee Performance Management System Improvement plans	Officers are of the opinion that appropriate arrangements are in place given resources available
•	Decide how value for money is to be measured and make sure that the Council or partnership has the information needed to review value for money and performance effectively. Measure the environmental impact of policies, plans and decisions	Chief Finance Officer AD(Partnerships & Performance)	Performance plans Efficiency strategy Use of Resources assessment Improvement Plans to respond to external inspections Any benchmarking exercises	Officers are of the opinion that appropriate arrangements are in place given resources available regarding VFM Officers accept that Environmental impact of policies, plans and decisions are not measured systematically Energy manager now recruited who will further develop this work
			2. Members and Officers Wor	king together
•	Set out a clear statement of the respective roles and responsibilities of the executive and of the executive's members individually and the Council's approach towards putting this into practice	Monitoring Officer	Constitution – framework sets out roles and responsibilities Record of decisions with supporting materials Councillors' Role profiles Job roles/descriptions for Councillors	The Constitution is amended by the Monitoring Officer who has authority to make minor amendments. All other amendments are made by Democratic Services following decisions of full Council and checked by the Monitoring Officer, and issued to members. The website is updated following such changes. Decisions are recorded both in writing and electronically. Officers are of the opinion that appropriate arrangements are in place given resources available

•	Set out a clear statement of the respective roles and responsibilities of other Council, members generally and senior officers	Monitoring Officer AD (Governance & Democracy)	Constitution Record of decisions with supporting materials Member training and development programme Role definitions of members and senior officers Senior officers' job descriptions	Officers are of the opinion that appropriate arrangements are in place given resources available
•	Determine a scheme of delegation and reserve powers within the constitution, including a formal schedule of those matters specifically reserved for collective decision of the Council, taking account of relevant legislation, and ensure that it is monitored and updated when required	Monitoring Officer	Constitution(Scheme of Council and Cabinet delegation Monitoring Officer	The Scheme of Delegation in the Constitution is kept under regular review by the Monitoring Officer, who has the authority to make minor changes. These are then setnt to all members. Officers are of the opinion that appropriate arrangements are in place given resources available
•	Make a chief executive or equivalent responsible and accountable to the Council for all aspects of operational management	Chief Executive	Conditions of employment Scheme of delegation Statutory provisions Job description/specification Constitution	Terms and conditions of employment are kept under regular review by the Employment Matters Committee. Officers are of the opinion that appropriate arrangements are in place given resources available
•	Develop protocols to ensure that the leader and chief executive (or equivalent) negotiate their respective roles early in the relationship and that a shared understanding of roles and objectives is maintained	Chief Executive	Effective communication is maintained byscheduled regular meetings with Leader/Deputy and Chief Ex Role definitions for leader and deputy	Regular meetings are held between the Chief Executive & Leader/Deputy Leader Officers are of the opinion that appropriate arrangements are in place given resources available
•	Make a senior officer (the S151 officer) responsible to the Council for ensuring that appropriate advice is given on all financial matters, for keeping proper financial records and accounts, and for maintaining an effective system of internal financial control	Chief Finance Officer	s.151 responsibilities Statutory provision Statutory reports Budget documentation Job description/specification Committee report template	Officers are of the opinion that appropriate arrangements are in place given resources available

•	Make a senior officer (usually the monitoring officer) responsible to the Council for ensuring that agreed procedures are followed and that all applicable statutes and regulations are complied with	Monitoring Officer	Monitoring officer provision/appointment Statutory provision Job description/specification Monitoring Officer Protocol	Officers are of the opinion that appropriate arrangements are in place given resources available
•	Develop protocols to ensure effective communication between members and officers in their respective roles	AD (Democracy & Governance) Monitoring Officer	Member/officer protocol Monitoring Officer Protocol Use of IT at home protocol Opposition working protocol	A protocol for members use of office resources will be developed in consultation with group leaders, as part of a recommendation from the Standards Committee. Officers are of the opinion that appropriate arrangements are in place given resources available
•	Set out the terms and conditions for remuneration of members and officers and an effective structure for managing the process, including an effective remuneration panel (if applicable)	AD (Democracy & Governance AD organisational services	Pay and conditions – policies and practices Independent Remuneration Panel? Members' Allowance Scheme? Pay and Grading Reviews?	Officers are of the opinion that appropriate arrangements are in place given resources available
•	Ensure that effective mechanisms exist to monitor service delivery	AD (Partnerships & performance)	Service Plans Reports to cabinet and Scrutiny on progress of council priorities	Officers are of the opinion that appropriate arrangements are in place given resources available but there are known problems with synchronising financial and performance information and meeting cycles Covalent performance management system will be implemented in 2009/10, supported by improved assistant director quarterly reporting process
•	Ensure that the Council's vision, strategic plans, priorities and targets are developed through robust mechanisms, and in consultation with the local community and other key	Chief Executive AD (Partnerships & performance)	Council Plan 2009/12Performance plan LAA Medway Matters Annual reports 2007/8 and 2008/9 and summaries Website	Officers are of the opinion that appropriate arrangements are in place given resources available

	stakeholders, and that they are clearly articulated and disseminated				
•	When working in partnership ensure that members are clear about their roles and responsibilities both individually and collectively in relation to the partnership and to the Council	AD (Partnerships & performance)	LSP Code of Governance		A review will be carried out to ensure all members of the LS partnership signed up to the Code of Governance. Officers are of the opinion that appropriate arrangements are in place given resources available
-	When working in partnership: Ensure there is clarity status of the partnership Ensure that representatives or organisations both understand and make clear to all other partners the extent of their authority to bind their organisation to partner decisions	Chief Executive	Clear Statements of Partnership principles and objectives in LSP code of governance which includes each Partner's role within partnership is clear and Definition of roles of partnership board Members A statement of funding sources for joint projects and clear accountability for proper financial administration eg s75 agreement, LAA innovation fund		Officers are of the opinion that appropriate arrangements are in place given resources available
			3. Promoting Value	es	
•	ensure that the Council's leadership sets a tone for the Council by creating a climate of openness, support and respect	Chief Executive	Chief Executive updates Regular staff meetings/Open door events Staff bulletin IIP Accreditation Staff survey results Terms of reference for joint staff consultative committee		Officers are of the opinion that appropriate arrangements are in place
•	ensure that standards of conduct and personal behaviour expected of members and staff, of work between members and staff and between the Council, its partners and the community are defined and communicated through codes of conduct and protocols	Monitoring Officer	Members'/officers' code of conduct Member/Officer relations protocol Performance management system PDR system Complaints procedures Whistleblowing policy Anti-fraud and -corruption policy Contract Standing orders Member training programme Dignity at work policy		The whistleblowing policy is currently being reviewed to ensure it encompasses all areas, not just fraud & corruption. The protocol for working with opposition members is currently being revised. The Procurement policy and contract standing orders will be revised in 2009/10

•	put in place arrangements to ensure that members and employees of the authority are not influenced by prejudice, bias or conflicts of interest in dealing with different stakeholders and put in place appropriate processes to ensure that they continue to operate in practice	Chief Executive	Equal Opps Policy Staff "conditions of service" Use of IT at home policy Financial procedure rules Induction procedures Employment policies Standing orders Codes of conduct Financial regulations Registers of interest Registers of Gifts and hospitality Whistle-blowing Anti-fraud and corruption policy Grievance procedures Internal Audit reports Equal Opps policy Equality and Diversity training Conditions of service for staff Complaints procedure Use of IT policy s. 151 officer review	Officers are of the opinion that appropriate arrangements are in place Officers are of the opinion that appropriate arrangements are in place
•	develop and maintain shared values including leadership values for both the Council and staff reflecting public expectations and communicate these with members, staff, the community and partners	Chief Executive Monitoring Officer AD (Organisational Services)	Codes of conduct Induction procedures Human Resources policies Publication of an Annual GovernanceStatement Core Values and Ethical Regime Medway Matters	Officers are of the opinion that appropriate arrangements are in place
•	put in place arrangements to ensure that systems and processes are designed in conformity with appropriate ethical standards, and monitor their continuing effectiveness in practice	Monitoring Officer	Codes of conduct Monitoring officer role Internal Audit Corporate complaints procedure Ethics and Standards Committee training Role of standards' committee in supporting Members' observation of code of conduct Performance Development Review procedures Performance Management framework Equality and Diversity training for staff Monitoring Officer annual report to Standards Committee	Officers are of the opinion that appropriate arrangements are in place
•	develop and maintain an		Terms of reference	Officers are now focusing on the local assessment

	effective standards committee	Monitoring Officer	Regular reporting to the council Standards committee terms of reference Standards Committee minutes and agendas Standards Committee training Publicising the process to complain about Members' conduct eg in Medway Matters Standards Committee hearings and outcomes		process and putting standards complaints forms on the website Officers are of the opinion that appropriate arrangements are in place
•	use the Council's shared values to act as a guide for decision making and as a basis for developing positive and trusting relationships within the Council	Chief Executive	Decision-making practices are open Minimum use of "exempt reports" Staff surveys Equalities policy informs decision making		Officers are of the opinion that appropriate arrangements are in place
•	in pursuing the vision of a partnership, agree a set of values against which decision making and actions can be judged. Such values must be demonstrated by partners' behaviour both individually and collectively	Chief Executive	LSP code of governance		LSP Board to agree shared value statement as part of preparation of community strategy Officers are of the opinion that suitable arrangements are in place and generally being followed
		•	4. Informed and Transparent De	ecision-making	
•	develop and maintain an effective scrutiny function which encourages constructive challenge and enhances the Council's performance overall and that of any organisation for which it is responsible	AD (Democracy & Governance)	Scrutiny is supported by robust evidence and data analysis Overview & Scrutiny reports to Council Training of Scrutiny members Call-in procedure Forward Plan		Officers are of the opinion that suitable arrangements are in place given resources available
•	develop and maintain open and effective mechanisms for documenting evidence for decisions and recording the criteria, rationale and considerations on which decisions are based	AD (Democracy & Governance)	decision-making protocols record of decisions and supporting materials Committee report templates sets out relevant considerations Committee/Cabinet decisions give reasons for decisions and any other options considered		Officers are of the opinion that suitable arrangements are in place

•	put in place arrangements to safeguard members and employees against conflicts of interest and put in place appropriate processes to ensure that they continue to operate in practice	Monitoring Officer	Members' Code of Conduct Member/Officer protocol Register of Interests Registers of Gifts and Hospitality Declarations of personal/prejudicial interests Monitoring Officer advice on potential conflicts of interest Licensing Code of good practice Confidential reporting code Planning code of conduct	Officers are of the opinion that suitable arrangements are in place
•	develop and maintain an effective audit committee (or equivalent) which is independent of the executive and scrutiny functions or make other appropriate arrangements for the discharge of the functions of such a committee	Chief Financial Officer	Terms of Reference Training for committee members Constitution	Officers are of the opinion that suitable arrangements are in place
•	ensure that effective, transparent and accessible arrangements are in place for dealing with complaints	AD (Democracy & Governance)	Complaints procedure Open reporting of complaints to xxcommittee Regular monitoring of complaints by? Ombudsman Annual letter reported	Officers are of the opinion that suitable arrangements are in place
•	ensure that those making decisions whether for the Council or the partnership are provided with information that is fit for the purpose — relevant, timely and gives clear explanations of technical issues and their implications	AD (Democracy & Governance) AD (Partnerships & Performance)	Members' induction scheme Training for Committee chairs Member training and development programme Committee report template shows implications and considerations	Officers are of the opinion that suitable arrangements are in place given resources available
•	ensure that professional advice on matters that have legal or financial implications is available and recorded well in advance of decision making and used appropriately	Monitoring Officer Chief Finance Officer	Record of decision making and supporting material Committee meeting Agendas and Minutes Committee template requires legal and financial implications to be included in reports	All Reports are cleared by the Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer. Officers are of the opinion that suitable arrangements are in place
•	ensure that risk management is embedded into the culture of the authority, with members and managers at all levels	Director of RCC	Risk Management Protocol Financial Standards and Regulations Financial Procedure Rules	Risk Management is now included on the Report templates. LAA delivery plans updated quarterly to

	recognising that risk management is part of their jobs		Risk Management Strategy and policy documents Risk Registers discussed DMTs Anti-fraud and corruption Strategy Fraud Response plan Whistle-blowing policy (confidential reporting code) Benefits Investigation Unit Internal Audit Risk Management Policy Corporate Risk Register Risks identified in Service plans LAA risk registerTraining for staff and members on risk management? Health and Safety policies and procedures	include update on risk Officers are of the opinion that suitable arrangements are in place and generally being followed given resources available
•	ensure that arrangements are in place for whistle-blowing to which staff and all those contracting with the authority have access	Monitoring Officer	Whistle-blowing policy Monitoring Officer and s. 151 Officers in post Procurement Standing Orders Confidential Reporting Code Fraud Telephone Hotline	The whistleblowing policy is currently under review. On-line reporting will be considered to make the system easier to use. Officers are of the opinion that suitable arrangements are in place
•	actively recognise the limits of lawful activity placed on them by, for example, the ultra vires doctrine but also strive to utilise powers to the full benefit of their communities	Monitoring Officer	Constitution Monitoring Officer's provisions Statutory Provisions "Legal Implications" on all reports	Officers are of the opinion that suitable arrangements are in place
•	recognise the limits of lawful action and observe both the specific requirements of legislation and the general responsibilities placed on local authorities by public law	Monitoring Officer	Legal advice obtained on all of the Council's major issues Circulation of reports prior to going to committee Monitoring Officer and s. 151 Officers in post No examples of successful Judicial reviews against the Council	Officers will introduce a lessons learnt policy this year to deal with the outcome of judicial reviews. Officers are of the opinion that suitable arrangements are in place
•	observe all specific legislative requirements placed upon them, as well as the requirements of general law,	Monitoring Officer	Monitoring Officer's provisions Statutory Provisions Job description/specification	Officers are of the opinion that suitable arrangements are in place

	and in particular to integrate the key principles of good administrative law – rationality, legality and natural justice – into their procedures and decision-making processes		Constitution		
		5. Develo	ping capacity and capability fo	r Members and (Officers
•	provide induction programmes tailored to individual needs and opportunities for members and officers to update their knowledge on a regular basis	AD (Democracy & Governance) AD organisational services	Training and development plan Induction Programme Update courses and information/seminars Investor in People Award Member development charter		See previous comments (above) about training and development schedules for members Officers are of the opinion that suitable arrangements are in place given resources available
•	ensure that the statutory officers have the skills, resources and support necessary to perform effectively in their roles and that these roles are properly understood throughout the Council	Chief Executive	Job description/personal specification Membership of Corporate Management Team Constitution on the intranet and council website Art in Constitution		Officers are of the opinion that suitable arrangements are in place
•	assess the skills required by members and officers and make a commitment to develop those skills to enable roles to be carried out effectively	AD (Democracy & Governance) AD (Organisational Services) Monitoring Officer	Training Plan Member induction Staff induction programme Personal Development interviews for members Standards Board training IIP Accreditation		Officers are of the opinion that suitable arrangements are in place given resources available
•	develop skills on a continuing basis to improve performance, including the ability to scrutinise and challenge and to recognise when outside expert advice is needed	AD (Democracy & Governance)	Training Plan covers:		Officers are of the opinion that suitable arrangements are in place given resources available
•	ensure that effective arrangements are in place for reviewing the performance of the executive as a whole and of individual members and	AD (Democracy & Governance)	Training and development programme		Officers are of the opinion that suitable arrangements are in place given resources available

	agreeing an action plan which might, for example, aim to address any training or development needs		Survey of Members' needs Call-in arrangements		
•	ensure that effective arrangements designed to encourage individuals from all sections of the community to engage with, contribute to and participate in the work of the Council	AD (Democracy & Governance) AD (Performance & Partnerships)	Strategic partnership framework Citizens Panel Structure Medway matters Equality and Diversity policy Recruitment advertising Medway Youth Parliament reports to O&S Links		Officers are of the opinion that suitable arrangements are in place given resources available
•	ensure that career structures are in place for members and officers to encourage participation and development	AD (Democracy & Governance) AD (Organisational Services)	Succession planning Workforce Development Plan Member training Programme Employee training and development prog Employee Development reviews Personal development interviews for members		Officers are of the opinion that suitable arrangements are in place given resources available
			6. Engagement and Public A	ccountability	
•	ensure that members make clear to themselves, all staff and the community to whom they are accountable and for what	Chief Executive	Community strategy Council plan Job Descriptions Scrutiny committee Medway Matters		Officers are of the opinion that suitable arrangements are in place given resources available
•	consider those institutional stakeholders to whom the authority is accountable and assess the effectiveness of the relationships and any changes required	Chief Executive	Community plan LSP governance review		Officers are of the opinion that suitable arrangements are in place given resources available Consultation is to be a key feature when developing new partnership arrangements for Medway Council
•	produce an annual report on the activity of the scrutiny function	AD (Democracy & Governance)	Annual Report to Council		Officers are of the opinion that suitable arrangements are in place given resources available
•	ensure that clear channels of communication are in place with all sections of the community and other	AD (Performance & Partnerships)	Community Plan Council website		Communicatoins strategy 2009/10 to be updated in light of new council plan

	stakeholders, and put in place monitoring arrangements to ensure that they operate effectively		Staff magazine Medway Matters Consultation links	Officers are of the opinion that suitable arrangements are in place given resources available
•	hold meetings in public unless there are good reasons for confidentiality	Monitoring Officer	Open Committee meetings including Executive	Officers are of the opinion that suitable arrangements are in place
٠	ensure that arrangements are in place to enable the Council to engage with all sections of the community effectively. These arrangements should recognise that different sections of the community have different priorities and establish explicit processes for dealing with these competing demands	AD (Performance & Partnerships)	Diversity impact assessment process Citizens Panel Equality and Diversity Plan Sector specific consultation including community cohesion group Language Line and Alternative Feedback Differing responses to consultation would be detailed in cabinet reports and processes for dealing with competing demands included as part of options analysis.	Officers are of the opinion that suitable arrangements are in place given resources available
•	establish a clear policy on the types of issues members will meaningfully consult on or engage with the public and service users about including a feedback mechanism for those consultees to demonstrate what has changed as a result	AD (Performance & Partnerships)	Community Engagement strategy	Officers are of the opinion that suitable arrangements are in place LSP communications and consultation strategy to be developed this year.
•	on an annual basis, publish a performance plan giving information on the authority's vision, strategy, plans and financial statements as well as information about its outcomes, achievements and the satisfaction of service users in the previous period	AD (Performance & Partnerships)	Performance Plan Annual Report	Officers are of the opinion that suitable arrangements are in place
•	ensure that the authority as a whole is open and accessible		Constitution	

to the community, service users and its staff and ensure that it has made a commitment to openness and transparency in all its dealings, including partnerships, subject only to the need to preserve confidentiality in those specific circumstances where it is proper and appropriate to do so	Chief Executive	Council Agenda and minutes published on website Management Team minutes published on intranet Freedom of Information Policy Data Protection Policy Council published "Core Values" Equalities strategy	Officers are of the opinion that suitable arrangements are in place
develop and maintain a clear policy on how staff and their representatives are consulted and involved in decision making	AD (Organisational Services)	Constitution Trade union consultation Staff surveys Employee development reviews Team Briefings with feedback mechanism Staff suggestion scheme Monthly staff newsletter Remuneration Committee	Officers are of the opinion that suitable arrangements are in place