

**Executive****12 September 2006**Report Title: **The Ethical Governance Audit Report and Action Plan**

Forward Plan reference number (if applicable): N/A

Report of: **Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer.**Wards(s) affected: **All**Report for: **Non – Key Decision****1. Purpose**

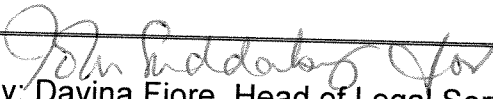
1.1 To inform the Executive of the outcome of the Ethical Governance Audit carried out by the Audit Commission. The final audit report and a draft action plan for agreement is attached.

**2. Introduction by the Leader of the Council**

2.1 I am pleased that the Audit commission has confirmed that the Council has made progress in our Ethical Governance arrangements over the last two years. However, to ensure that the community we serve as Members, and officers, have trust and confidence in what we do and our reasons for doing so, we have to ensure that standards continue to improve and that the Council's processes are as transparent as possible. The Audit Commission in it's report has made a number of helpful suggestions to assist us in achieving this and I recommend the Council's response as set out in the Action Plan (appendix 2) to the Executive for adoption.

**3. Recommendations**

3.1 To note the Audit Report and agree the Draft Action Plan.

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#### **4. Executive Summary**

- 4.1 The Audit Commission carried out an Ethical Governance Audit in February 2006. The draft report was received in the pre-election Purdah period and it was not possible to report it and agree the action plan at that time, although the report and its recommendations were referred to in the member training on Ethical Governance.
- 4.2 The report concluded that there have been significant improvements in the Council's arrangements for promoting Ethical Governance over the last 2 years. The recommendations are a continuation of work already underway. Members will be interested to read the report as particular areas are highlighted for attention.

#### **5. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

- 5.1 Audit Commission Ethical Governance Report for Haringey Council.