2009/2010 Annual Review of Corporate Governance and Internal Control Arrangements

| Ref. | Corporate Improvement Objectives | Update | Responsible Officer |
|------|--|---|--------------------------|
| 1 | The Performance and Statistics team are to devolve the validation of statistics to station/departmental level and to the personnel actually attended an emergency incident. It is envisaged this will reduce the time taken to validate incident data and make accurate information available to inform decisions on a timelier basis. | Although we have a principle of working towards information being correct at source, the validation of statistics still happens centrally. Due to training and updating of IT systems this doesn't take as long as it used to but is still a requirement at this time to maintain good data quality. | AM Corporate Development |
| | The risk information library is to be fully digitalized to allow succinct access by operational personnel. Risk management sections will be introduced into district plans and a risk register will be developed to inform Local Strategic Partnerships. The Capital Appraisal Form will also be reviewed to better recognise risk. | Risk information is almost completely digitalized and is now available through our Mobile Data Terminals to Ffs riding appliances A strategic decision was taken this year not to include risk registers in District Plans—although they do have a section on community risk. The comment about LSP's | |

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| | | should be about us assisting them to develop their own risk registers? –this is complete for Newcastle and being developed for North Tyneside. CAFs have a section requesting detail of risks if project does not go ahead. | |
| | A full publication scheme has been developed and will be evidenced on the Authority Internet and Intranet which will allow members of the public access to all of the documents produced by the Authority. | Complete | |
| 2 | The Procurement Department will develop a Procurement Manual to compliment the standing orders and financial regulations. | Ongoing | Procurement Manager |

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| 3 | The Authority should give consideration to developing a Whistleblowing Policy for the benefit of members of the public which aims to: enable members of the public to raise concerns about suspected malpractice; encourage and enable members of the community to communicate serious concerns rather than overlooking a problem; encourage members of the public to feel confident in raising serious concerns; reassure members of the public that they will be protected from victimisation and their concerns will be taken seriously; provide avenues for members of the public to raise concerns and receive appropriate feedback on any action taken; and ensure that members of the public get an appropriate response to the concerns they have raised and show how they may take the matter further if they are dissatisfied with the response. | Complete | Human Resources Manager and Corporate Communications Manager |

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| 4 | Gain accreditation under the British Standard for Business Continuity Management to ensure that services can be resumed in case of emergency. | April 2011 | AM Corporate Support |
| 5 | Raise a greater understanding of Corporate Governance with Middle Managers | April 2011 | DCO |