

**COUNCIL
26TH MARCH 2008**

SUMMARY REPORT

Report Title	Final Report of the Corporate Governance Working Group
Report of:	Corporate Governance Working Group
Chair	Cllr I. Haszeldine

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek members approval for a number of changes to Council processes and decision making in line with the final report of the working group.

SUMMARY

2. A working group was set up to look at how the council could enhance public involvement in Council decision making. The final report of the group recommends a number of changes to the Procedure Rules and to the Council's way of working to achieve this.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members.

- (a) Note the report of the Corporate Governance Working Group.
- (b) Approve the changes to the Council, Cabinet and Scrutiny Procedure Rules proposed within the report, set out in the Appendices to the report.

REASONS

3. To improve the quality and transparency of the Council's decision making

Report Writer: Catherine Whitehead, Borough Solicitor, 01325 388 306

S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for crime and disorder.
Health and Wellbeing	There are no issues relating to health and wellbeing which this report needs to address
Sustainability	Detailed at paragraph 65 of Appendix A
Diversity	Detailed at paragraph 65 of Appendix A
Wards Affected	The proposals affect all wards equally.
Groups Affected	This is detailed in paragraph 65 of Appendix A.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework
Key Decision	This is not a non Executive decision
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	This report specifically addresses objective NI 4.