

## Appendix C

This appendix details the recommendations that came out of the Public Interest Report for Corby and seeks to provide comment on whether they are applicable to SNC/CDC or not and if they are includes a comment around the arrangements currently in place here.

Clearly not all recommendations are relevant as they are Corby specific but commentary can be provided for the more generic recommendations that should apply generally to good project management and corporate governance arrangements.

It is the intention that this approach provides re-assurances about the project management arrangements at CDC and SNC.

| <b>Governance arrangements</b> |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| R1                             | Strengthen member contribution to and clarify arrangements for making decisions for major regeneration projects, particularly those carried out in partnership   |
| <i>Comment</i>                 | <i>Appendix B sets out the Programme Management arrangements employed at SNC/CDC. The Place Programme board is made up of senior officers and members and reports through to Cabinet on a regular basis.</i> |
| R2                             | Ensure that decisions are properly supported in minutes or officer decision records as appropriate.  |
| <i>Comment</i>                 | <i>A record of all issues, actions and decisions considered at every board meeting is taken. Escalation of issues is through the regular update reports to Cabinet or the Executive</i>                      |
| R3                             | Strengthen arrangements for member scrutiny, including holding officers to account, building on the action being taken in response to the LGA recommendation   |
| <i>Comment</i>                 | <i>Not directly applicable to SNC/CDC. This is provided through the scrutiny arrangements at SNC/CDC as well as through the project management governance arrangements detailed in Appendix B.</i>           |
| R4                             | Build on the member training assessment to ensure individual members develop the skills necessary to ensure effective engagement on behalf of the Council on partnership bodies.                             |
| <i>Comment</i>                 | <i>Not directly applicable to SNC/CDC</i>  |

| <b>Breach of statutory obligations</b>                        |  |
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| R5  | Assess the legal implications of the potential breach of Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972.   |
| <i>Comment</i>  | <i>Not directly applicable to SNC/CDC</i>  |
| R6  | Review the operation of whistle-blowing arrangements to ensure staff feel confident to use them.   |
| <i>Comment</i>  | <i>The Council has a whistle-blowing policy in place which is reviewed on a regular basis.</i>   |
| <b>Failure to comply with Council policies and procedures</b> |  |
| R7  | Take steps to strengthen compliance with its own governance procedures by raising awareness of governance arrangements in both members and officers.   |
| <i>Comment</i>  | <i>Experienced monitoring officer and S151 officer who comment as part of the quarterly monitoring reports on compliance with overall governance arrangements</i>  |
| R8  | Ensure all key governance arrangements are properly documented in one place to improve awareness of them.  |
| <i>Comment</i>  | <i>Key governance arrangements are all contained within the Council's constitution</i>   |
| <b>Financial management</b>                                   |  |
| R9  | Review arrangements for assessing financial risks, including the early involvement of finance staff.   |
| <i>Comment</i>  | <i>Finance team is structured to provide project support and there is finance representation on all major projects. Matters are escalated to the Corporate Finance Manager, Head of Finance and Procurement and Director of Resources as required.</i> |
| R10   | Strengthen arrangements for monitoring and reporting expenditure against budget in respect of major capital projects.  |
| <i>Comment</i>  | <i>Spend against budget is monitored through the normal monthly and quarterly budget monitoring process. Project progress is monitored through the quarterly performance management framework</i>  |
| <b>Project Management of the Cube</b>                         |  |

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| R11                               | Review the membership of present and future project boards to ensure appropriate member and officer involvement   |
| <i>Comment</i>                    | <i>Appendix B details the arrangements in place for major projects the Councils are running with. This includes senior member and officer representation.</i>   |
| R12                               | Subject major projects to systematic review to ensure that they remain realistic, affordable and command informed member support  |
| <i>Comment</i>                    | <i>This should be highlighted through regular performance and budget monitoring reports. There are also recent examples where a review has taken place on a major project in the light of emerging information or evidence on a matter.</i>   |
| R13                               | Strengthen arrangements for managing contractual relationships and contractors' performance.  |
| <i>Comment</i>                    | <i>Not directly relevant to SNC/CDC</i>   |
| <b>Use of professional advice</b> |   |
| R14                               | Strengthen arrangements for ensuring that, where appropriate, independent specialist advice is obtained on a timely basis.  |
| <i>Comment</i>                    | <i>If the expertise is not available in-house independent specialist advice is obtained. This can be evidenced on all the major regeneration projects the Councils are running with</i>   |
| R15                               | Ensure professional advice is evaluated and either followed in the Council's interests or, if not, that reasons for departing from it are recorded.   |
| <i>Comment</i>                    | <i>If external specialist advice is commissioned this approach is routinely followed.</i>   |
| <b>Actions of senior officers</b> |   |
| R16                               | Review the arrangements for the effective discharge by the Chief Financial Officer and the Monitoring Officer of their statutory officers.  |
| <i>Comment</i>                    | <i>The Chief Financial Officer and Monitoring Officer are regularly called on to advise on projects. This can involve 'stop/go' decisions, budget and funding advice, legal advice, overall governance or democratic process advice. The officers work very closely together and ensure both are aware of emerging issues as projects progress.</i> |
| R17                               | Assess whether any further action, supportive or otherwise, needs to be   |

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|                | taken in respect of the current statutory officers.  |
| <i>Comment</i> | <i>See above - not applicable</i>  |
| R18            | Resolve any remaining uncertainty arising from any possible breach of the Kingswood funding or project management agreement. |
| <i>Comment</i> | <i>Not applicable</i>  |