

Report to	On
Governance Committee	Tuesday, 23 March 2021

Title	Report of
Local Code of Corporate Governance Update	Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer

Is this report confidential?	No <i>delete as applicable</i>
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(N.B. Numbering should follow on consecutively. Formatting such as 1.2, 1.2.1 etc. will not be permitted)

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform members of updates to the Local Code of Corporate Governance and seek approval of the proposed amendments.

Recommendations

2. Members approve the Local Code of Corporate Governance attached at appendix A to this report.

Reasons for recommendations

3. The Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance required updating to reflect changes to Council documents and organisation structure. The amended document incorporates these changes and ensures that the Local Code remains relevant and a clear and correct statement of our governance framework.

Other options considered and rejected

4. To not update the Local Code was rejected as it would be an incorrect statement of the Council's governance arrangements.

Corporate outcomes

5. The report relates to the following corporate priorities: *(tick all those applicable)*:

An exemplary council	X	Thriving communities	
A fair local economy that works for everyone		Good homes, green spaces, healthy places	

Background to the report

6. The "Local Code of Corporate Governance" (the Local Code) sets out and describes the Council's commitment to corporate governance and identifies the arrangements that have been developed and maintained to enable the transparent and fair delivery of the Council's work. Each year the Council prepares an annual governance statement which tests the internal control environment against our Local Code. The Local Code is an important document which provides the framework for our compliance with good governance standards.
7. The framework "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government" was first published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers (CIPFA/SOLACE) late in 2007. This framework has been reviewed by CIPFA and Solace in 2015 and a revised framework published in spring 2016. It details 7 core principles which should form the basis for each council's Local Code. These principles are set out below.
 - Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values and respecting the rule of law
 - Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement
 - Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits
 - Determining the interventions necessary to optimize the achievement of the intended outcomes
 - Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it
 - Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management
 - Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit, to deliver effective accountability
8. Each principle is supported by behaviours which demonstrate compliance.
9. The Local Code considers each of the Principles and the sub-behaviours commits the Council to complying with them and then provides evidence which demonstrates this compliance.
10. The evidence is made up of corporate documents, policies, strategies and procedures. As several the documents have been changed or refreshed it is important to review the Local Code to ensure it is up to date. This is particularly so as it will be used to test against to consider the council's governance environment. If the Local Code is incorrect then demonstrating compliance will be very difficult.

Risk

11. The risk is assessed in the body of the report.

Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

12. There are no financial implications in this report.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

13. Contained in the body of the report.

Appendices

Appendix A – Local Code of Corporate Governance

Chris Moister
Director of Governance

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