

Report To:	AUDIT COMMITTEE
Date:	28 NOVEMBER 2024
Heading:	ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE LOCAL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE
Executive Lead Member:	NOT APPLICABLE
Ward/s:	NOT APPLICABLE
Key Decision:	NOT APPLICABLE
Subject to Call-In:	NOT APPLICABLE

Purpose of Report

To review and amend the Local Code of Corporate Governance.

Recommendation(s)

To approve the minor amendments to the Local Code of Corporate Governance highlighted in Appendix 1 and detailed in the report.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

It is best practice for the Local Code of Corporate Governance to be reviewed annually to inform the Governance Framework for the following year.

Alternative Options Considered

The Committee may consider alternative changes to the Local Code of Corporate Governance.

Detailed Information

Introduction

Robust Corporate Governance ensures organisations are doing the right things in the correct manner in an open, honest, inclusive and accountable way. Good governance leads to good management, performance and outcomes.

The Council has a framework of policies and procedures in place which collectively make up its governance arrangements.

Local Code of Corporate Governance

The Local Code of Corporate Governance sets out the Council's arrangements and is based on the guidance "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government" published by CIPFA (the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) and SOLACE (the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives) in 2016.

The CIPFA/SOLACE guidance identifies seven core principles and various sub principles; the recommended Local Code of Corporate Governance is based on these seven core principles. The seven principles are:

- A. Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values and respecting the rule of law
- B. Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement
- C. Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits
- D. Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes.
- E. Developing the Council's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it
- F. Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management
- G. Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting and audit to deliver effective accountability

The Code sets out the documents, systems, processes and actions the Council undertakes to fulfil its commitment to and compliance with this Code. The Code supports the Council's review of the effectiveness of its system of internal control and informs the Annual Governance Statement which accompanies the Annual Statement of Accounts.

The Local Code of Corporate Governance is subject to annual review to inform the governance framework for the following year. The Code was last reviewed and amended in November 2023. The Audit Committee is responsible for approving the Code. The Chief Executive and the Monitoring Officer are responsible for ensuring the Code is kept up to date and reviewed annually.

Minor changes/additions to the Code are recommended as shown highlighted in the document attached as Appendix 1. The change reflects the new Board arrangements (Service Review Board) for the management and monitoring of the Council's Service Review Programme. The further additions are to ensure clarity in relation to Information Management policies and procedures.

Committee is asked to approve the change to the Local Code of Corporate Governance and acknowledge that the remainder remains fit for purpose.

Implications

Corporate Plan:

To ensure we deliver high-quality public services we have adopted a set of corporate values which underpin the successful delivery of our priorities. How we work is as important as what we do. The Council's values are:

- People Focussed
- Honest
- Proud
- Ambitious

Legal:

There are no legal issues identified in the report. It is best practice to keep the Local Code of Corporate Governance under review. [RLD 13/11/2024]

Finance:

There are no financial implications identified in the report. [PH 18/11/2024]

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	None
General Fund – Capital Programme	None
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	None
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	None

Risk:

Risk	Mitigation
Failure to review the Local Code of Corporate Governance would mean the governance framework is not complied with and would impact on the Annual Governance Statement process	The review ensures compliance with the governance framework and assists with the annual governance review.

Human Resources:

There are no Human Resources issues identified as a direct result of the report. [14/11/2024]

Environmental/Sustainability:

There are no Environmental/Sustainability issues identified in the report.

Equalities:

There are no Equalities issues identified in the report.

Other Implications:

None.

Background Papers

None

Report Author and Contact Officer & Sponsoring Executive Director

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