

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

8th November 2021

Report Title	Code of Corporate Governance	
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List of Appendices

Appendix A – Code of Corporate Governance

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. For the Audit and Governance Committee to approve the Local Code of Corporate Governance.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The critical importance of local authority governance during this era of financial pressure and rapid change is important and must be monitored by the Audit and Governance Committee.
- 2.2 The Corporate Code of Governance will provide a public record of how the authority will meet its commitment to demonstrating that it has the necessary corporate governance arrangements in place to perform effectively.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Audit and Governance Committee:
- a) Approve the Code of Corporate Governance attached as Appendix A.
- 3.2 Reason for Recommendations –
- To ensure that there is a public record of governance controls in place in accordance with legislative requirements.

4. Report Background

- 4.1 The Council is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively.
- 4.2 The Council also has a duty under the Local Government Act 1999 to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way which functions are exercised.
- 4.3 In discharging this overall responsibility, the Council is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs and facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, including the management of risks.
- 4.4 The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 require a local authority to review at least once a year the effectiveness of its system of internal control. This requirement will be fulfilled if the review is conducted in accordance with the Delivering Good Governance (DGG) in Local Government Framework.
- 4.5 The Council should be able to demonstrate that its governance structures comply with the core and sub-principles contained in the Framework and, to facilitate this, it should therefore develop and maintain a Local Code of Corporate Governance reflecting the principles set out.
- 4.6 The Local Code of Corporate Governance is a public statement that sets out the way the Council will meet its commitment to demonstrating that it has the necessary corporate governance arrangements in place to perform effectively. It represents a key component of the Council's governance arrangements and applies to all Council members, officers, partners and stakeholders in their dealings with the Council.

5. Issues and Choices

- 5.1 The Code of Corporate Governance contained at Appendix A sets out how the authority has put in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs. It has been drafted to ensure compliance with the Framework as described above.
- 5.2 It is recognised that there are still some elements of the governance of the authority that will need to be developed and improved to ensure that the Council is following best practice.
- 5.3 Whilst the Authority is still bedding in following transition on 1st April 2021, it is proposed that rather than the yearly review of the Code to ensure that it accurately reflects the governance controls in place, that this is monitored by the Committee after six months.

6. Implications (including financial implications)

6.1 Resources and Financial

There are no resources or financial implications arising from the proposals.

6.2 Legal

Legal implications are contained within the report.

6.3 Risk

If a Code of Corporate Governance was not approved, there is a risk that the authority would not be complying with audit requirements and important governance controls to ensure that the authority is meeting legislative requirements.

6.4 Consultation

6.4.1 None

6.5 Consideration by Scrutiny

6.5.1 None

6.6 Climate Impact

6.6.1 None

6.7 Community Impact

6.7.1 None

7. Background Papers

6.7.1 None