
**REPORT TO THE GOVERNANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE
MEETING ON: 8 MARCH 2017**

Status: Decision
Title: Local Code of Governance
Originator: Verina Wenham – Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer
Where from: Ethical Governance Committee
Where to next: Implementation

1 Outcome Sought from Committee

1.1 The Committee is requested to consider and approve the Local Code of Governance attached as Appendix A.

2 Background

2.1 Following an audit of the Council's Assurance Framework, it was recommended that the Council update and finalise a Local Code of Governance.

2.2 The draft Local Code of Governance, attached as Appendix A, is based upon the revised CIPFA/SOLACE framework document "Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework 2016 Edition." The key focus is on governance processes and structures focussing on the attainment of sustainable economic, societal and environmental outcomes.

2.3 The CIPFA/SOLACE Framework 2016 now has a revised set of principles (A-G) taken from the "International Framework: Good Governance in the Public Sector (CIPFA/IFAC 2014)":

A – Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values and respecting the role 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 optimize the achievement of the intended outcomes;

E – Developing the entity’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 International Framework notes that principles A and B permeate implementation of principles C to G.

2.4 It is best practice for a Local Authority to have a code that reflects these principles and be committed to improving governance on a continuing basis through a process of evaluation and review.

2.5 Accordingly the Local Code has been developed and reviewed by the Ethical Governance Committee and the Council’s Corporate Governance Group, made up of the Council’s statutory officers, to ensure that it reflects the current governance arrangements of the council and complies with the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework 2016 edition.

3 Points for Consideration

3.1 The production of a Local Code of Governance has previously been considered good practice; however, it is a legal requirement to adopt a Local Code of Governance for the financial year 2017/18.

4 Equality Impact Assessment

4.1 When taking into account the Public Sector Equality Duty, the Local Code of Governance supports the main aims of the duty. There are no specific equalities issues identified for protected or vulnerable groups. Improvements to communications and consultation processes will enhance existing procedures.

5 Conclusions

5.1 It is recommended that the Committee approves the Local Code of Governance as set out in Appendix A.

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Previous report(s): None

Information Issued Under Sensitive Issue Procedure: Y/N

Ward Members Notified: Y/N

Appendices: *list any appendices here including title and filename in brackets (e.g. Performance Data 2010 (perfddata.doc)).*

A. Local Code of Governance