

REPORT TO AUDIT & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 9 MARCH 2022

Report of: Director Finance

Title: CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE – 2022/23

Is this a Key Decision?

No

* One that affects finances over £1m or significantly affects two or more wards. If this is a key decision then the item must be on the appropriate forward plan of key decisions.

Is this an Executive or Council Function?

Council

1. What is the report about?

1.1 The report sets out the proposed Code of Corporate Governance to reflect the updated principles of Delivering Good Governance in Local Government (CIPFA/Solace 2016).

2. Recommendations:

It is recommended that:

2.1 Audit and Governance Committee supports and Council approves the Code of Corporate Governance for 2022/23.

3. Reasons for the recommendation:

3.1 The Council is required to prepare and publish an Annual Governance Statement by Regulation 4 of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011. It reports on the Council's performance against the Code of Corporate Governance. It is best practice to review and update the Code annually.

4. What are the resource implications including non financial resources.

4.1 There are no resource implications contained within the report.

5. Section 151 Officer comments:

5.1 The production of the Code of Corporate Governance is considered best practice. However the requirement to produce an Annual Governance Statement, which reports on the Council's performance with reference to the Code is a statutory requirement.

6. What are the legal aspects?

6.1 The Annual Governance Statement, which reports on performance against the Code of Corporate Governance, is in place in order to support the obligation to comply with Regulation 4 of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015 concerning the statutory obligations to maintain accounting records and financial control systems.

7. Monitoring Officer's comments:

- 7.1 Corporate Governance is the term used to describe the system by which Local Authorities direct and control their functions and relate to their communities. Governance is about how the Council ensures that it is doing the right things, in the right way, for the right people in a timely, inclusive, open, honest and accountable manner. The Code of Corporate Governance sets out the Governance Framework and illustrates the key documents and processes it has in place to support the delivery of good governance across the Council.

The Code of Corporate Governance sets out the principles of good governance and what arrangements it has in place to ensure that the Council conducts its business in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded, properly accounted for and used economically, efficiently and effectively.

8. Report details:

- 8.1 The Code of Corporate Governance is required to be updated annually. The updated Code is attached at Appendix A.
- 8.2 The code has been updated to reflect the new principles set by CIPFA/SOLACE and the opportunity has been taken to present it more in line with the Annual Governance Statement that reports on the Council's performance. There are no significant changes to the code this year.

9. How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan?

- 9.1 This is a statutory requirement and does not contribute directly to the Council's Corporate Plan.

10. What risks are there and how can they be reduced?

- 10.1 There are no direct risks associated with this report

EQUALITY ACT 2010 (THE ACT)

- 11.1 Under the Act's Public Sector Equalities Duty, decision makers are required to consider the need to:
- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other prohibited conduct;
 - advance equality by encouraging participation, removing disadvantage, taking account of disabilities and meeting people's needs; and
 - foster good relations between people by tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.
- 11.2 In order to comply with the general duty authorities must assess the impact on equality of decisions, policies and practices. These duties do not prevent the authority from reducing services where necessary, but they offer a way of developing proposals that consider the impacts on all members of the community.
- 11.3 In making decisions the authority must take into account the potential impact of that decision in relation to age, disability, race/ethnicity (includes Gypsies and Travellers),

sex and gender, gender identity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, pregnant women and new and breastfeeding mothers, marriage and civil partnership status in coming to a decision.

11.4 In recommending this proposal no potential impact has been identified on people with protected characteristics as determined by the Act because: because

11.4.1 The report sets out a framework that does not directly impact on people.

CARBON FOOTPRINT (ENVIRONMENTAL) IMPLICATIONS:

12.1 No direct carbon/environmental impacts arising from the recommendations.

13. Are there any other options?

13.1 Not applicable

Director Finance

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)

Background papers used in compiling this report:-

None

Contact for enquires:

Democratic Services (Committees)

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