

## LOCAL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Audit Committee - 4 July 2023

**Report of:** Monitoring Officer

**Status:** For Consideration

**Key Decision:** No

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr. Maskell

**Contact Officer:** Martin Goodman, ext. 7245

**Recommendation to Audit Committee:**

- (a) That the Local Code of Corporate Governance set out in the Appendix be re-adopted;
- (b) That the Monitoring Officer continue to be authorised to maintain and amend the Local Code of Corporate Governance in line with good practice.

**Reason for recommendation:** The Committee agreed on 26 September 2017 that it would be good practice for the Committee to approve the Local Code of Corporate Governance once at the beginning of each electoral cycle.

### Introduction and Background

- 1 The current Local Code of Corporate Governance was adopted by the Audit Committee on 26 September 2017. It was agreed at that time that it would be good practice for the Committee to approve the Local Code once at the beginning of each electoral cycle. The Code was re-adopted on 18 July 2019.
- 2 Since that time there has been no reason to revise the Local Code other than to reflect updates to the Council Plan. This report accordingly seeks re-adoption of the ongoing document with the necessary minor changes.

### The Framework

- 3 International Framework: Good Governance in the Public Sector (CIPFA/IFAC, 2014) defines governance in the following way: *Governance comprises the arrangements put in place to ensure that intended outcomes for stakeholders are defined and achieved.*
- 4 It is recommended that authorities should test their governance structures and partnerships against the principles contained in the 'The Framework'

(Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework (2016) (CIPFA/SOLACE, 2016)) by developing and maintaining a Local Code of Corporate Governance including arrangements for ensuring ongoing effectiveness.

- 5 'The Framework' has not been revised since the Local Code was adopted in 2017. However, from time-to-time it will be necessary for the Local Code to be amended in line with best practice and it is accordingly the Monitoring Officer is authorised to undertake such revisions as necessary.

### **Other Options Considered and/or Rejected**

No other options were considered as this report made pursuant to the adopted good practice of the Audit Committee.

### **Key Implications**

#### Financial

None.

#### Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement

It is recognised that the Local Code need not necessarily be represented in one single document and could instead be made up of a number of codes or documents. To that end a named and adopted Local Code in the form presented in the Appendix is not legally required. However, the reputational risks and risk to good governance of not updating the Local Code in the light of the Internal Audit recommendations are considered significant enough to require this report. There is a low risk to adopting the Local Code set out in the Appendix.

#### Equality Assessment (Compulsory heading - do not delete)

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

#### Net Zero Implications

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the Council's ambition to be Net Zero by 2030. There is no perceived impact regarding either an increase or decrease in carbon emissions in the district, or supporting the resilience of the natural environment.

## **Conclusions**

The amended Local Code should be adopted and the Monitoring Officer retain the authority to keep it up to date.

### **Appendices**

Local Code of Corporate Governance.

### **Background Papers**

None.

**Martin Goodman**  
**Monitoring Officer**