

Name of meeting: Corporate Governance and Audit Committee

Date: 15 September 2017

Title of report: Code of Corporate Governance

Purpose of report

To approve the Council's Code of Corporate Governance

Key Decision - Is it likely to result in spending or saving £250k or more, or to have a significant effect on two or more electoral wards?	N/A
Key Decision - Is it in the Council's Forward Plan (key decisions and private reports)?	N/A
The Decision - Is it eligible for "call in" by Scrutiny?	N/A
Date signed off by Director & name Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance, IT and Transactional Services? Is it also signed off by the Service Director - Legal Governance and Commissioning?	
Cabinet member portfolio	N/A

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: N/A

Public or private: Public

1. Summary

1.1 There is a requirement on Councils to agree an 'Annual Statement of Corporate Governance'. This Committee has approved a draft annual statement of corporate governance in June 2017, and an action plan has been produced, the implementation of which is being monitored by internal audit and will be reported as a part of their next quarterly report; The final annual statement of corporate governance will be approved alongside the accounts in due course.

2. Information required to take a decision

2.1 To assess the quality and health of corporate governance it is good practice to adopt a 'Code of Corporate Governance' to set up the principles and standards of governance to which the Council aspires and against which the Council can benchmark the quality of its governance arrangements. The previous Code was reviewed in 2015.

2.2 Governance is defined as being 'about how local government bodies ensure that they do the right things, in the right way, for the right people in a timely, inclusive, open, honest and accountable manner. It comprises the systems and processes, and the culture and values, by which local government bodies are directed and controlled and through

which they account to, engage with and, where appropriate, lead their communities.

- 2.3 The key changes since the previous report are the addition of the new seven key principles and sub-principles of corporate governance which are set out clearly in the attached code and reflect the components as set out in the CIPFA/SOLACE Delivering Good Governance Framework 2016.

3. Implications for the Council

3.1 Early Intervention and Prevention (EIP)

N/A

3.2 Economic Resilience (ER)

N/A

3.3 Improving Outcomes for Children

N/A

3.4 Reducing demand of services

N/A

3.5 Legal and Financial Implications

The Code of Corporate Governance will assist the Council in assessing its governance arrangements when next considered in 2018.

4. Consultees and their opinions

The draft code has been developed with the involvement of the Service Director – Legal Governance and Commissioning, Internal Audit, and Governance & Democratic Services.

5. Next steps

The Code will be used as a tool in considering the Annual Statement of Corporate Governance for 2018/19 in the summer of 2018.

6. Officer recommendations and reasons

To adopt the Code of Corporate Governance as set out in the attached document

7. Cabinet portfolio holder recommendation

N/A

8. Contact officer

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9. Background Papers and History of Decisions

CIPFA/SOLACE Delivering Good Governance Framework 2016

10. Service Director responsible

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