

Report to Audit and Risk Assurance Committee

29 July 2021

Subject:	Code of Corporate Governance
Director:	Director of Legal and Governance/Monitoring Officer Surjit Tour
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1 Recommendations

That Full Council be recommended to approve the updated Code of Corporate Governance







2 Reasons for Recommendations

The revised Code of Corporate Governance contributes toward the statutory assurances on the robustness of its governance arrangements.

Approval of the Code is a matter for Council to determine, on the recommendation of Audit and Risk Assurance Committee. Audit and Risk Assurance Committee as the committee with a corporate governance and compliance remit need to be satisfied that arrangements remain robust and recommend adoption of the Code of Corporate Governance to Council.



3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	Governance mechanisms underpin all aspects of the Council. The Code of Corporate Governance, as a public statement that demonstrates the Council has the necessary governance arrangements in place to perform effectively, contributes toward achievement of the Corporate Plan in its entirety.
	
	
	
	
	

4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 The Council is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, that public money is safeguarded, properly accounted for and used efficiently and effectively, and that it has robust and assured governance arrangements in place.
- 4.2 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 CIPFA/SOLACE Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework (2016).
- 4.3 The Council adopted the Local Code of Corporate Governance as a mechanism to demonstrate that its governance structures comply with the principles contained in the framework. The Code is a key component of the Council's governance arrangements and describes the processes and arrangements that the Council has in place to evidence compliance with good governance principles.
- 4.4 As part of its commitment to ensuring that the governance infrastructure remains appropriate, the Council undertakes a regular review of its



arrangements and updates the Code to reflect any required changes. The Code (attached at appendix 1) reflects the adoption of the Corporate Plan; outcome of the review of the Code of Conduct; interim Covid governance arrangements; and has expanded the narrative around elements of the content for ease of public consumption.

5 Alternative Options

5.1 None – the Code contributes toward the legislative requirement for the authority to review the effectiveness of its systems of internal control.

6 Implications

Resources:	The Code outlines the Council’s systematic and procedural approach to strategic resource management.
Legal and Governance:	The governance review process ensures that the Council discharges its statutory duties. The adoption of the Code of Corporate Governance demonstrates how the council complies with the Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Framework 2016.
Risk:	The Council is legislatively required to have efficient and effective governance arrangements in place. These are evaluated on an annual basis by the internal and external audit function who provide an opinion on the efficiency and effectiveness of the council’s governance arrangements. The code and the arrangements outlined within provides assurances that the Council remains compliant with its obligations
Equality:	There are no equality impact issues associated with this report
Health and Wellbeing:	None associated with this report
Social Value	None associated with this report

7. Appendices

Appendix 1 Code of Corporate Governance

8. Background Papers

None

