

<b>Local Members Interest</b>
N/A

## **Audit and Standards Committee – 30th July 2018**

### **Code of Corporate Governance**

#### **Recommendation**

1. To approve the updated Code of Corporate Governance and resultant action plan produced in line with the CIPFA SOLACE framework 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government' published in April 2016.

#### **Joint Report of the Director of Strategy, Governance and Change and the Director of Finance and Resources**

#### **Background**

2. A detailed review of the Code of Corporate Governance (and Single Sheet Local Framework) has been undertaken by the Council's Corporate Governance Group following the publication of the 2016 Delivering Good Corporate Governance in Local Government Framework. There are seven core principles which are listed below:
  - Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law.
  - Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement.
  - Defining Outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits.
  - Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes.
  - Developing the entity's capacity, including the capacity of its leadership and the individuals within it.
  - Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management.
  - Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting and audit to deliver effective accountability.
3. The 2016 framework builds significantly on the previous version and has been expanded to include greater emphasis on partnerships, outcomes, interventions and transparency agendas.
4. Consequently during 2018 the Council's over-arching Code of Corporate Governance has been refreshed in order to update the detail contained regarding the arrangements in place to demonstrate adherence to the core principles and sub principles contained in the framework and is attached at Appendix 1. Contained within the document is the Corporate Governance Action Plan for 2018/19. Progress regarding implementation of the action plan will be monitored throughout the year and reported on as part of the

review of the effectiveness of the governance framework which feeds into the Annual Governance Statement. The document has been discussed and approved by the Corporate Governance Working Group in July 2018.

### **Equalities Implications and Climate Change Implications**

5. There are no direct implications arising from this report.

### **Legal Implications**

6. Any new (significant) costs arising from Action Plans that cannot be contained within existing budgets will need to be considered within the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

### **Resource and Value for Money Implications**

7. The net budget of the Internal Audit Section is estimated at £849,000 of which £53,350 relates to payments to external providers.

### **Risk Implications**

8. Good corporate governance is key to efficient and effective service delivery and will assist the Council in promoting its image with key stakeholders.

### **Report Author**

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### **List of Background Papers**

1. CIPFA / SOLACE Publication: Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework – April 2016 Edition
2. CIPFA / SOLACE Publication: Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Guidance Note for English Authorities – 2016 Edition
3. Code of Corporate Governance 2017