

Local Members Interest
N/A

Audit and Standards Committee - Tuesday 13 July 2021

Code of Corporate Governance

Recommendation

I recommend that the Committee:

- a. 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 2016.

Report of the Director of Corporate Services

Report

Background

1. 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:
 - a. Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law.
 - b. Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement.
 - c. Defining Outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits.
 - d. Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes.
 - e. Developing the entity's capacity, including the capacity of its leadership and the individuals within it.
 - f. Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management.
 - g. Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting and audit to deliver effective accountability.
2. The 2016 framework builds significantly on the previous version and has been expanded to include greater emphasis on partnerships, outcomes, interventions and transparency agendas.
3. The Council's over-arching Code of Corporate Governance continues to be refreshed to ensure the accuracy of the details 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 2021. 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 action plan relating to the 2020/21 code has been discussed and reviewed by the Corporate Governance Working Group throughout the year. Appendix 2 refers to the single sheet framework which represents the governance structure in place within the Council.

Equalities Implications and Climate Change Implications

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

Legal Implications

5. 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

6. The net budget of the Internal Audit Section for 2021/22 is £982,700 of which £67,000 relates to payments to external providers.

Risk Implications

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

List of Background Documents/Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Local Code of Corporate Governance 2021

Appendix 2 – Single Sheet Framework

List of Reference Material:

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 2020

Contact Details

Report Author:	Lisa Andrews
Job Title:	Head of Audit & Financial Services
Telephone No.:	01785 276402
E-Mail Address:	lisa.andrews@staffordshire.gov.uk