

COMMITTEE REPORT

CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

9 MARCH 2017

REVIEW OF THE LOCAL CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

JAMES BROMILEY, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND GOVERNANCE

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1 To set out the revised Local Code of Corporate Governance, attached to this report at Appendix 1, for the Committee's comments prior to consideration by Council on 29 March 2017.

BACKGROUND

- 2 Middlesbrough Council has been on an improvement journey for the past year to strengthen its governance arrangements across a range of issues. This has been extensively documented to members within briefings and formal reports on delivery of actions within the Council Improvement Plan (CIP). The actions have been taken because the Council is committed to ensuring that it has good governance arrangements in place that support efficient and effective service delivery that meet local needs.
- 3 As part of that improvement agenda and commitment to good governance, the Council is committed to regularly reviewing its Local Code of Corporate Governance.
- 4 The content of the Local Code has been revised this year to reflect the latest CIPFA Solace guidance 'Delivering Good Governance' (2016). This guidance sets out seven principles for good governance, supported by sub-principles and examples of evidence that would demonstrate that an organisation's governance processes, systems and policies are in line with the principles of good governance.
- 5 The draft Local Code of Corporate Governance outlines how the Council will meet those principles. Progress in meeting those principles will be assessed by the Annual Governance Statement which will be published alongside the Statement of Accounts later in the year.

PROPOSALS

- 6 Council Members are collectively responsible for the governance of the Council. While it is full Council's responsibility to consider key corporate governance documents; reviewing the Council's arrangements for corporate governance is within this Committee's remit.
- 7 It is therefore proposed that the Committee considers the draft Code of Corporate Governance prior to its submission to full Council for consideration on 29 March 2017.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 8 There are no financial impacts arising directly out of this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9 It is recommended that the Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee considers the draft Code of Corporate Governance and endorses its submission to full Council for adoption.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10 Middlesbrough Council Constitution.

AUTHOR

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