

COUNCIL REPORT

COUNCIL

29 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 consideration by Council.

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 excellent 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.
- 6 The draft Code was considered by the Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee at its meeting on 9 March 2017. The Committee was supportive of the proposal to revise the code to reflect current best practice guidance.

PROPOSALS

- 7 Council Members are collectively responsible for the governance of the Council. It is proposed that Council considers the draft Code and votes to adopt it. This will ensure that the Council's Code aligns with current best practice guidance.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9 It is recommended that the Council approves the draft Local Code of Corporate Governance.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10 Middlesbrough Council Constitution.

AUTHOR

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