

Report of: Director of Legal and Governance Services (Monitoring Officer)**Submitted to:** Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee, 31 March 2022**Subject:** Annual Review of the Local Code of Corporate Governance**Summary****Proposed decision(s)**

That the Committee notes that there have been no changes in the past year to the CIPFA / SOLACE guidance document 'Delivering Good Governance' and, as such, agrees that the current Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance is retained.

Report for:	Key decision:	Confidential:	Is the report urgent?
Decision	N/A	No	N/A

Contribution to delivery of the 2021-24 Strategic Plan

People	Place	Business
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The Local Code of Corporate Governance provides a framework that enables the Council to assess its governance arrangements against sectoral best practice.

Ward(s) affected

None.

What is the purpose of this report?

1. To report the outcome of the annual review of the Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance (LCCG).

Why does this report require a Member decision?

2. It is within the remit of Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee to keep 'under review the Council's arrangements for Corporate Governance'. The LCCG sets the framework against which compliance with corporate governance best practice is assessed on a systematic basis. Any decision to amend the LCCG is reserved for full Council, as advised by this Committee.

Report Background

3. Regular reviews of the LCCG are necessary to ensure that the Council is assessing its governance arrangements against sectoral best practice.
4. The current LCCG (at Appendix 1) is modelled on the CIPFA / SOLACE guidance 'Delivering Good Governance' (2016). An annual review schedule was put in place to ensure that changes to this guidance were reflected within the LCCG. There have been no changes to the guidance since the current LCCG was adopted by Council in 2017. As such, no changes to LCCG are proposed from this year's review.

What decision(s) are being asked for?

5. That Corporate Affairs and Audit Committees notes that there have been no changes in the past year to the CIPFA / SOLACE guidance document 'Delivering Good Governance' and, as such, agrees that the current Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance is retained.

Why is this being recommended?

6. This decision is being recommended because the current LCCG already reflects recognised sectoral best practice.

Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended

7. The other potential option would be to review the LCCG against another best practice standard, or create a new local standard. This option is not recommended as the CIPFA / SOLACE guidance is recognised as sectoral best practice and provides an appropriate framework to ensure that the Council has good governance practices in place.

Impact(s) of recommended decision(s)

8. If agreed, the draft Annual Governance Statement for the financial year ending in April 2022 will represent an assessment against the LCCG at Appendix 1.

Legal

9. Elected members are collectively responsible for the governance of the Council and approval of the LCCG as advised by this Committee.

Financial

10. There are no financial implications arising as a result of this report.

Policy Framework

11. This report does not seek to amend the Council's Policy Framework.

Equality and Diversity

12. There are no concerns that the proposals could result in policies and practices that could impact differently on individual or groups because they hold one or more protected characteristics. The LCCG sets out expected standards for policies and services to ensure that people are treated fairly. These policies are separately impact-assessed as part of their development.

Risk

13. There are a number of entries on the Council's risk registers that set out the potential risks the Council could face as a result of poor corporate governance, in particular there is a specific entry to manage the risk of failure to adhere to the Local Code of Corporate Governance (O8-054). Provision of a robust LCCG is a key control measure in managing these risks.

Actions to be taken to implement the decision(s)

14. If agreed, senior management will be advised of the Committee's decision and copies of the LCCG on the intranet and internet will be updated.

Appendices

- 1 Local Code of Corporate Governance

Background papers

Body	Report title	Date
Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee	Local Code of Corporate Governance	17 March 2017
Council	Local Code of Corporate Governance	29 March 2017
Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee	Local Code of Corporate Governance	8 February 2018
Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee	Local Code of Corporate Governance	7 March 2019
Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee	Local Code of Corporate Governance	6 February 2020
Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee	Local Code of Corporate Governance	4 February 2021

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