

Report of:	Director of Legal and Governance Services (Monitoring Officer)
Submitted to:	Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee
Date:	16 March 2023
Title:	Annual Review of the Local Code of Corporate Governance
Report for:	Information
Status:	Public
Strategic priority:	Quality of service
Key decision:	Not applicable
Why:	Not applicable
Urgent:	Not applicable
Why:	Not applicable

Executive summary

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

The LCCG should be reviewed annually to ensure it aligns with best practice. this report confirms that the LCCG continues to align with the CIPFA code of practice on delivering good governance in local government which remains unchanged.

Purpose

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

Background and relevant information

2. Regular reviews of the LCCG are necessary to ensure that the Council is assessing its governance arrangements against sectoral best practice.
3. 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 recommended?

4. That the Corporate Affairs and Audit 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.

Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

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

Other potential decision(s) and why these have not been recommended

6. 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 the recommended decision(s)

Legal

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

Strategic priorities and risks

8. The existence of the LCCG contributes toward the positive management of the following strategic risks:
 - Failure to achieve good governance
 - Failure to comply with the law
 - Failure to achieve strategic and directorate priorities
 - Failure of partnerships

- Failure to achieve a balanced budget.

Human Rights, Equality and Data Protection

9. There are no concerns that the proposals could result in policies and practices that could impact differently on individuals 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. the LCCG assesses compliance with best practice in relation to information governance within its framework.

Financial

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

Actions to be taken to implement the recommended decision(s)

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline
Publication of the 2023 – 2024 Local Code of Corporate Governance on the Council’s open data page	Interim Head of Strategy, Information and Governance	March 2023

Appendix

1	2023 – 2024 Local Code of Corporate Governance
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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
Corporate Affairs and Audit Committee	Local Code of Corporate Governance	31 March 2022

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