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| MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL |  |
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| Report of: | Director of Legal and Governance Services (Monitoring Officer) |
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| Submitted to: | Audit Committee |
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| Date: | 6 February 2025 |
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| Title: | Local Code of Corporate Governance |
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| Report for: | Information |
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| Status: | Public |
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| Council Plan priority: | All |
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| Executive summary |
| <p>The Local Code of Corporate Governance provides a framework that enables the Council to assess its governance arrangements against sectoral best practice.</p> <p>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. The Council’s Annual Governance Statement then assesses how well the Council is complying with the Annual Governance Statement.</p> |

1. Purpose

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

2 Recommendations

2.1 That the 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, notes that no changes are proposed to the current Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance.

3 Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

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

4 Background and relevant information

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

4.2 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.

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

5.1 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.

6 Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)

| Topic | Impact |
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| Financial (including procurement and Social Value) | There are no financial implications arising as a result of this report |
| Legal | Elected members are collectively responsible for the governance of the Council and approval of the LCCG as advised by this Committee. |

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| Risk | <p>The existence of the LCCG contributes toward the positive management of the following strategic risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Failure to achieve good governance ▪ Failure to comply with the law ▪ Failure to achieve strategic and directorate priorities ▪ Failure of partnerships |
| Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion | <p>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.</p> |
| Climate Change / Environmental | <p>There are no concerns that continued adoption of this code could impact negatively on this area.</p> |
| Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers | <p>There are no concerns that continued adoption of this code could impact negatively on this area.</p> |
| Data Protection | <p>The LCCG sets out expected standards for policies and services to ensure compliance with information governance policies, frameworks and legislative requirements.</p> |

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

Not applicable

Appendices

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| 1 | 2025-26 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 |

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| 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 |
| Audit Committee | Local Code of Corporate Governance | 16 March 2024 |

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