

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL	
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Report of:	Chief Executive, Erik Scollay
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Submitted to:	Full Council
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Date:	1 April 2026
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Title:	Local Code of Corporate Governance
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Report for:	Decision
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Status:	Public
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Council Plan priority:	All
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Proposed decision(s)
That Full Council: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• APPROVES the revised Local Code of Corporate Governance.

Executive summary
<p>The Local Code of Corporate Governance (LCCG) 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 proposes a slight change to the content of the LCCG, to include information previously set out in the Annual Governance Statement. This reflects an addendum to the 2016 CIPFA guidance that was issued in 2025 which has recommended that Councils do this to enable them to concentrate on the effectiveness of those arrangements within the Annual Governance Statement.</p> <p>The report recommends that Audit Committee agrees to recommend the amended Local Code of Corporate Governance to Full Council for decision.</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 Full Council:

- **APPROVES** the revised Local Code of Corporate Governance..

3 Rationale for the recommended decision(s)

3.1 This decision is being recommended to ensure the Council's Local Code of Corporate Governance continues to align with recommended best practice published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers (SOLACE).

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. These reviews are considered by the Council's Audit Committee on an annual basis. Where changes are required to the LCCG, this is a decision that should be taken by Full Council.

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. This report proposes a slight change to the content of the LCCG, to include information previously set out in the Annual Governance Statement. This reflects an addendum to the 2016 CIPFA guidance that was issued in 2025 which has recommended that Councils do this to enable them to concentrate on the effectiveness of those arrangements within the Annual Governance Statement.

4.3 At its meeting on 19 February 2026, the Council's Audit Committee endorsed the proposed changes and agreed to recommend that Full Council agrees the revised LCCG.

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.
Risk	The existence of the LCCG contributes toward the positive management of the following strategic risks: <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	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.
Climate Change / Environmental	There are no concerns that continued adoption of this code could impact negatively on this area.
Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers	There are no concerns that continued adoption of this code could impact negatively on this area.
Data Protection	The LCCG sets out expected standards for policies and services to ensure compliance with information governance policies, frameworks and legislative requirements.

Appendices

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	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
Audit Committee	Local Code of Corporate Governance	6 February 2025

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