

REVIEW OF CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report advises that the Council's Governance Group has reviewed the action plan for 2018/19 and updated the content of the local code of corporate governance to reflect the governance position within the Council for 2018/19.
- 1.2. The Governance Group has prepared an action plan for 2019/20.
- 1.3. The review allows the Council to include a statement of governance and internal control in the Annual Accounts for 2018/19.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Audit and Scrutiny Committee note the updates in the Action Plan for 18/19
- 2.2 The Audit and Scrutiny Committee approve the content of the revised Code of Corporate Governance for 2018/19
- 2.3 The Audit and Scrutiny Committee approve the content of the Action Plan for 2019/20
- 2.4 The Audit and Scrutiny Committee approve the draft statement of governance and internal control for 2018/19

REVIEW OF CODE OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

1. INTRODUCTION

This report advises that the Council's Governance Group has reviewed the content of the local code of corporate governance to reflect the governance position within the Council for 2018/19. The review allows the Council to include a statement of governance and internal control in the Annual Accounts for 2018/19. The Governance Group has prepared an action plan for 2019/2020.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Audit and Scrutiny Committee note the updates in the Action Plan for 18/19
- 2.2 The Audit and Scrutiny Committee approve the content of the revised Code of Corporate Governance for 2018/19
- 2.3 The Audit and Scrutiny Committee approve the content of the Action Plan for 2019/20
- 2.4 The Audit and Scrutiny Committee approve the draft statement of governance and internal control for 2018/19

3. DETAIL

- 3.1 CIPFA and SOLACE published a revised Framework for 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government' in 2007. The Framework was intended to define the principles that should underpin the governance of local authorities and provides a structure to assist authorities with their own approach to governance. The Framework took the six core principles, from the 'Good Governance Standard for Public Services' (2004), and adapted these principles for local government, identifying eighteen supporting principles.
- 3.2 The Council's Governance Group has responsibility for the preparation of the Code of Corporate Governance along with an Action Plan which identifies areas within the Council where work to improve the governance arrangements within the Council is being undertaken or is necessary.

The Governance Group is of the view that the actions on the action plan for 18/19 (appendix 1) have been progressed.

The Governance Group includes:

- Head of Strategic Finance (s95 Officer);
- Head of Improvement & HR;
- Head of Governance and Law;
- Governance and Risk Manager;
- Chief Internal Auditor.

3.3 The six core principles contained in the local code are;

Focussing on the purpose of the authority and on outcomes for the community and creating and implementing a vision for the local area.

Members & Officers working together to achieve a common purpose with clearly defined functions and roles

Promoting values for the authority and demonstrating the value of good governance through upholding high standards of conduct and behaviour.

Taking informed and transparent decisions which are subject to effective scrutiny and managing risk

Developing the capacity and capabilities of members and officers to be effective

Engaging with local people and other stakeholders to ensure robust public accountability

The revised code (appendix 2) includes links to the evidence demonstrating compliance with these six core principles.

3.4 The review of the effectiveness of the system of governance and internal control is informed by the:

- Work of Officers within the Council;
- Work of External and Internal Audit;
- Statements of Governance or Internal Control provided by external bodies;
- External review and inspection reports; and
- Recommendations from the Audit and Scrutiny Committee

3.5 It is recommended that the Audit and Scrutiny Committee approve the revised code of Corporate Governance for 2018/19 (appendix 2), the action plan 19/20 (appendix 3) and the draft statement of governance and internal control for 2018/19 (appendix 4).

4. CONCLUSION

This review of the content of the local code of corporate governance gives assurance about the robustness of the Council's governance arrangements as level 3 of the CIPFA code.

5. IMPLICATIONS

POLICY In line with SORP and recommended practice

FINANCIAL None

HR None

LEGAL Monitoring Officer statutory role, remit includes governance

EQUALITIES None

RISKS None

**CUSTOMER
SERVICE** None

Douglas Hendry
Executive Director – Customer Services

For further information please contact:
Iain Jackson, Governance and Risk Manager
01546 604188

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Updated action plan for 18/19

Appendix 2 - Revised code of corporate governance 18/19

Appendix 3 - Action plan for 19/20

Appendix 4 - Draft statement of governance and internal control 18/19