

**Meeting:** Cabinet  
**Date:** 16 September 2024  
**Classification:** Part 1  
**Key Decision:** Yes  
**Title of Report:** Updated Local Code of Governance

**Executive Director:** Claire Shuter, Executive Director, Strategy & Change  
**Report Author:** Andrew Barnes, Head of Internal Audit  
Suzanne Newman, Head of Corporate Strategy Group  
**Executive Councillor:** Councillor Daniel Cowan: Leader – Infrastructure and Corporate Strategy

## **1. Executive Summary**

The Local Code of Governance has been revised to reflect the direction of the council in recent years. This includes the adoption of the Corporate Plan, the council's values and behaviours and changes to officer governance arrangements. It has also been simplified to highlight more clearly the CIPFA/SOLACE sub-principles of good governance and the Nolan principles of public life. Audit Committee received the updated Local Code of Governance on 17 July and recommend that it is approved by Cabinet.

## **2. Recommendations**

**It is recommended that Cabinet:**

- 2.1. Approve the updated Local Code of Governance as set out at Appendix 1.**
- 2.2. Agree that the Council's existing Constitution is updated to reflect the revised Local Code of Governance and that the Local Code of Governance will be adopted as appropriate as part of the review of the Constitution programme currently progressing through Standards Committee.**

## **3. Background**

- 3.1. The Council is recommended to have in place a Local Code of Governance that sets out its governance framework. The framework outlines the Council's approach to good governance and enables the annual review of the effectiveness of internal control to be carried out. The annual review, a legal requirement, is undertaken via the Annual Governance Statement**

presented to Audit Committee each year, signed by the Leader and Chief Executive, and is published as part of the annual statement of accounts.

#### **4. Reasons for Decisions**

- 4.1. CIPFA recommends that all local government bodies develop a local code of governance through their 2016 Governance Framework.

#### **5. Other Options**

- 5.1. Not adopting a revised Local Code of Governance would mean the Council's governance framework would lack clarity and would hinder delivery of the Council's aims and objectives

#### **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1. There are no direct financial implications from the document, however good corporate governance helps to support informed decision making and strong financial management.

#### **7. Legal Implications**

- 7.1. A Local Code of Governance is not a legal requirement, but good practice is defined in guidance issued by the relevant professional body, which for local government is the CIPFA / SOLACE Framework (refer background papers). This recommends that local authorities produce a Local Code of Governance and sets out the operational framework that it should adopt.
- 7.2. Compliance with this Code contributes to satisfying the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015.

#### **8. Policy Context**

- 8.1 This report is made in the context of the following policies:
- Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) / Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers (SOLACE) publication: Delivering Good Governance in Local Government – Framework (2016).
  - Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) / Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers (SOLACE) publication: Guidance Note for English Authorities
  - The Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015.

#### **9. Carbon Impact**

- 9.1. There are no direct carbon impacts in respect of the production of this document.

## 10. Equalities

10.1. There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report

## 11. Consultation

11.1. The revised Local Code of Governance has been reviewed and agreed by the Corporate Leadership Team in advance of being reported to the Audit Committee.

## 12. Appendices

12.1. **Appendix 1:** Updated Local Code of Governance pack presented to Audit Committee on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

## 13. Report Authorisation

This report has been approved for publication by:		
	Name:	Date:
S151 Officer	Joe Chesterton	23/07/2024
Monitoring Officer	Susan Zeiss	23/07/2024
Executive Director(s)	Claire Shuter	23/07/2024
Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Cllr Daniel Cowan	22/07/2024